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Report of the International Expert Group Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance

Summary

Indigenous and United Nations agency participants highlighted the importance of strengthening indigenous governance structures and institutions in order to have effective and sustainable development within indigenous communities. They pointed to the need for ensuring effective participation in all stages of the development cycle, such as obtaining free, prior and informed consent; equitable benefit-sharing schemes; and dispute resolution mechanisms. Strong indigenous governance structures provide the basis for indigenous communities to deal with the changes imposed by modernization and globalization without further disempowerment and marginalization.

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I. Introduction

1. At its fourth session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended that the Economic and Social Council authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, indigenous participation and good governance. At its 37th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2005, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2005/252, decided to authorize the expert group meeting with the participation of representatives of the United Nations system and three members of the Forum invited other interested intergovernmental organizations, experts from indigenous organizations and interested Member States to participate as well; and requested the meeting to report to the Forum at its fifth session under the special theme of that session. The workshop was organized by the secretariat of the Forum.

II. Organization of work

A. Attendance

2. The following Forum members attended the workshop: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, William Langeveldt and Michael Dodson. Mr. Dodson attended as a member of the Forum and as a Director, Reconciliation Australia.

3. The following invited experts participated in the workshop: Saoudata Aboubakrine of the Tin Hinan Association (Burkina Faso); Mónica Alemán of MADRE; Paul Chartrand (Canada); María Choque (Bolivia); Fiu Elisara-La'ulu, Ole Siosiomage Society Incorporated (Samoa); Famark Hlawnching, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; Julie Kitka (United States of America); Irina Shafrannik (Russian Federation).

4. The workshop was attended by observers from United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, observers from other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Member States. The list of participants is contained in annex II to the present report.

B. Documentation

5. The participants had before them a draft programme of work and documents prepared by participating experts. The documentation is available on the website of the secretariat of the Forum at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unfii/en/workshopMOG.html.

C. Opening of the meeting

6. At the opening of the workshop, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, made an opening statement.

D. Election of officers

7. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Forum, was elected Chairperson of the workshop. Birgitte Feiring of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was elected Rapporteur.

E. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

8. On 13 January 2006, the workshop adopted, by consensus, the conclusions and recommendations contained in section III below.

F. Closure of the workshop

9. The workshop was closed after the conclusions and recommendations were adopted at the final plenary meeting, held on 13 January 2006.

III. Highlights of the discussion

A. International standards and policies on participation and good governance with reference to indigenous peoples

10. Indigenous peoples are characterized by their own governance structures and are faced with the challenge of providing good governance in their communities, including developing their particular ways of electing leadership, taking decisions, exercising power and ensuring accountability. At the same time, indigenous peoples confront a diverse range of issues, concerns and challenges associated with their status and interaction with the governance structures of the countries where they live. The interaction between indigenous and non-indigenous societies has, throughout history, been complex, ranging from outright conflict and subjugation to some degree of mutual respect, benefit and cultural transfer. It is now broadly recognized that the respect for indigenous peoples' specific rights is an essential element of good governance, and is furthermore a prerequisite for developing effective and efficient strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

11. Workshop participants pointed out that governance occurs through interactions among structures, processes and traditions that in turn determine how power is exercised, how decisions are taken and how individual citizens as well as indigenous peoples and other stakeholders can participate and influence decision-making. Fundamentally, governance is about power, relationships and accountability: who has influence, who decides and how decision-makers are held accountable. Indigenous governance is based on similar structures, processes and traditions. It is a means whereby indigenous peoples make the rules and decisions for themselves. Many traditional forms of self-governance include a belief system that supervises and monitors peaceful coexistence among peoples in sharing the multidimensional natural world.

12. There are many international human rights standards that have direct relevance and applicability to questions of good governance, including articles 21 and 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 2 of the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights requires State parties to respect the rights recognized in the Covenant and to take the necessary steps to give effect to those rights. In particular, State parties are to ensure an effective remedy when rights are violated and to provide a fair and effective judicial or administrative mechanism. Similarly, article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires States to agree to take steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized by all appropriate means. Furthermore, the Declaration on the Right to Development clarifies the nature of these obligations, setting forth important objectives for governance. It mandates States to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at improving the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting from such development.

13. ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries contains a series of provisions and principles for good governance. The basic approach is that indigenous peoples have the right to benefit on an equal footing from the rights and opportunities provided to the general population while benefiting from special rights and measures to protect, inter alia, their institutions, cultures, languages and lands. The Convention puts special emphasis on the principles of consultation and participation, stipulating that indigenous peoples have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development.

14. The workshop participants noted a number of encouraging developments towards enhanced participation of indigenous peoples in international policies and processes. The reference made to "indigenous peoples" in the 2005 World Summit Outcome can be seen as a clear indication of consensus concerning the debate on the term "indigenous peoples", and the workshop participants expressed the hope that negotiations regarding standard-setting of indigenous rights move towards this direction. Another recent example of consensus-building is the current negotiations on the draft United Nations declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples, where there was significant progress at the eleventh session of the inter-sessional working group. Also, the recent election of indigenous candidate Evo Morales as President of Bolivia in December 2005 is an encouraging and welcome development with regard to the participation of indigenous peoples in political life. The workshop expressed the hope that the international community would take responsibility for supporting the newly elected Government of Bolivia to fulfil its promises to the indigenous peoples who comprise the majority in Bolivia.

15. The subject of the workshop had a strong relationship with the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The Decade's goal is the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities. In this regard, the key objectives of the Decade proclaimed by the General Assembly are linked to good governance as well as to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The motto of the Second Decade, "partnership for action and dignity", demonstrates the shift from a focus on discussion and negotiation to action. Action should be aimed at

making a difference on the ground by improving indigenous peoples' living conditions and empowering indigenous communities to face new challenges.

B. Areas in which indigenous participation is especially relevant regarding the Millennium Development Goals

16. The issue of good governance is explicit in the eighth and final goal of the Millennium Development Goals: "Develop a Global Partnership for Development". This is a very broad goal that relates to issues such as debt, trade and financial agreements, which can have an adverse impact on indigenous peoples unless there are opportunities for genuine partnerships that reaffirm indigenous peoples' fundamental rights to, inter alia, land and resources. Achieving goal 8 remains a challenge for most countries as well as for indigenous peoples.

17. There was considerable discussion at the workshop regarding the issue of indigenous governance. Indigenous and United Nations agency participants highlighted the importance of strengthening indigenous governance structures and institutions in order to have effective and sustainable development within indigenous communities. They pointed to the need for ensuring effective participation in all stages of the development cycle, such as obtaining free, prior and informed consent; equitable benefit-sharing schemes; and dispute resolution mechanisms. Strong indigenous governance structures provide the basis for indigenous communities to deal with the changes imposed by modernization and globalization, without further disempowerment and marginalization.

18. Participants regretted the fact that many development projects implemented by governments and intergovernmental organizations as well as by the private sector result in a further weakening of traditional governance structures, which have already suffered the effects of colonization. Experience from various agencies, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), shows that the strengthening of traditional governance has positive results and agencies are gradually adopting or strengthening policies in support of traditional indigenous governance systems. Positive examples can also be found among some private-sector actors; one example being in Australia, where one company supports the strengthening of indigenous governance as part of doing good business, with very good results.

19. At the local level, indigenous peoples see good governance as meaning a stronger focus on processes rather than structures, implying support to evolving participatory forms of governance rather than imposed and static models. Governance models that recognize a diversity of world views and that are based on cultural values and traditions lead to genuine decision-making authority and local control. Other important factors include enhancing, strengthening and building capacity of emerging indigenous leadership, particularly youth and women leaders. In order to be effective, indigenous governance institutions must have the necessary resources and capacity to provide the requested services to the communities, and the legitimacy to govern, based on accountability, transparency and the support of their constituents.

20. Speakers pointed out that in many instances indigenous peoples' participation is crucial at the local level. In order to achieve genuine participation, development processes must adhere to cultural norms by respecting traditions and protocols and

building on the views, feedback and lessons learned from indigenous peoples. It is also necessary to involve the diversity of actors in the participatory processes. In some instances, for example, there must be dialogue with churches and other religious bodies, which often form an important part of indigenous peoples' identity and culture.

21. It was noted that indigenous governance is not static but evolving and may include changes in gender roles and youth participation, especially as women become income earners and youth articulate their perspectives and visions. The various development actors, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, donors, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, need to understand the diversity of indigenous situations and ensure that this diversity is not lost within the context of harmonization of action.

22. Indigenous peoples have interests as citizens of the State but also as peoples who have their own visions of a society in which they want to live. Indigenous peoples reside within the political boundaries of States and thus their collective interests as peoples may sometimes be hindered by State practices. It is therefore essential that they participate in the State's decision-making processes to have their rights and interests protected. For a government, whether national or local, to be effective and provide good governance it requires legitimacy, acknowledged power to act and resources to function. At the national level good governance requires the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making. This is the key to successful policy initiatives and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

23. Speakers noted that indigenous peoples consider self-governance as a way to realizing the right of self-determination, which is also inspired by indigenous philosophy. In many instances, indigenous peoples have formulated their own proposals on governance and development. Some of the basic elements of these proposals have included: (a) self-determination, which is the possibility of managing their collective resources through their own institutions and systems of governance; (b) recuperation of their peoples' culture of sustainability; (c) revitalization and development of systems of collective knowledge; and (d) access to, and benefits from, the appropriate use of collective communal property, such as land, natural resources, cultural heritage and collective knowledge.

24. The issue of migration was also discussed by participants. While a majority of indigenous peoples still live in rural areas, there are indications that they are increasingly migrating to urban areas. The deterioration of traditional livelihoods, adverse effects of globalization, continued loss of land and absence of viable alternatives in their communities are factors that push indigenous peoples to migrate to cities where most are forced to participate in the informal economy. Uprooted from ancestral lands many become alienated and face a variety of social, economic and personal challenges. Indigenous peoples in urban settings are often at a high risk of suffering from discrimination and exclusion as well as from violations of international labour standards related to child labour and forced labour.

25. Good urban governance is characterized by a number of interdependent and mutually reinforcing principles. Urban development must be sustainable, balancing the needs of present and future generations while demonstrating a clear commitment to poverty reduction. Cities and local authorities need to be empowered with sufficient resources and autonomy to meet their responsibilities. Equal and efficient

access to decision-making processes is essential for all women and men. Transparency and accountability are essential elements of good governance, and the key to transparency is access to information. Inclusion, not to be confused with assimilation, involves opportunities to participate in gainful employment, and empowering individuals to strengthen their ability to participate in society.

26. Migration does not only affect those who leave but also has various effects on those who stay behind. In some societies it is the men who migrate for work, while the women stay behind. This can lead to an enhanced status of women who become more independent as they need to be in control of their communities. Many indigenous communities are also increasingly depending on or benefiting from remittances from migrant workers. The remittances of indigenous peoples have received little attention so far and merit further evaluation.

27. Special consideration was given to the situation of Africa where States have inherited colonial systems that undermine equality among peoples. While many African governments do not recognize indigenous peoples' particular rights, the reality is that the indigenous pastoralists and hunter-gatherers remain the poorest of the poor on the continent as they have been robbed of their ancestral lands and natural resources and their human and peoples' rights are often violated by ruling elites. The areas where African indigenous participation is particularly relevant to the Millennium Development Goals are in mechanisms for consultation and participation (including women and youth); preparation of targets and indicators; participatory budgeting and planning; participation in implementing, monitoring and evaluating Millennium Development Goal plans; and preparation of Millennium Development Goal country reports.

C. Enablers and spoilers in indigenous participation and good governance, with special reference to the Millennium Development Goals

28. Many participants stated that the Millennium Development Goals do not refer specifically to indigenous peoples and that is a reason why indigenous peoples have been largely invisible in the Millennium Development Goal process. Reviews by ILO and the Forum have also revealed that indigenous peoples were not consulted during the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals and have been largely absent from their implementation and from the monitoring and reporting processes. Indigenous peoples have also been largely absent from Millennium Development Goal country reports and poverty reduction strategy papers. In many instances, indigenous peoples' awareness of the Millennium Development Goals is very low, which further reinforces their exclusion.

29. Participants referred to the report of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues of 2005, which pointed to the double challenge posed to the Millennium Development Goals by indigenous peoples: "On the one hand, they have the right to be fully included and to benefit from the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, while on the other hand, their rights to define their own development path and priorities, must be respected, in order to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals contribute to the full realization and

strengthening of the potential of these peoples".[1] It is therefore important that mechanisms be established that ensure that communities are able to give their free, prior and informed consent on all policies, strategies and activities affecting them.

30. Another major concern regarding the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples is that the goals and their related indicators do not reflect the specific needs and concerns of indigenous peoples and do not allow for specific monitoring of progress concerning indigenous peoples. Even from a strictly economic viewpoint, the Millennium Development Goal targets and indicators are inadequate for a number of indigenous peoples as they give prominence to monetary income over the informal, subsistence economies that are so important for the fulfilment of many of the basic needs of indigenous peoples. As presently defined, the Millennium Development Goals do not take into account alternative ways of life and their importance to indigenous peoples, not only in the economic sense, but also as the underpinnings for social solidarity and cultural identity. The Millennium Development Goals carry the risk of guiding development action towards an increasing involvement of indigenous peoples in wage labour and market economies where there is no use for their sophisticated traditional knowledge and governance systems.

31. Considering the importance of having reliable disaggregated data about indigenous peoples, it has been identified as a methodological priority by the Forum, which has adopted a number of recommendations at its annual sessions. The workshop also noted that an increasing number of countries, international agencies and academic institutions collect disaggregated data and there are a number of ongoing and planned initiatives to further data collection and the establishment of indicators. At the international level efforts are made by, inter alia, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, IFAD, the secretariat of the Forum and the United Nations Statistics Division. At the national level, research initiatives are undertaken by a variety of academic institutions.[2]

D. Good examples of indigenous participation in governing policies, laws, budgets and practices with special references to Millennium Development Goals

32. Some of the case studies presented at the workshop gave an overview of diverse experiences of indigenous governance in the Pacific and North American regions. They demonstrated that the genuine and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in governance, the role and legitimacy of traditional structures and institutions and the capacity of leadership are key factors for effective governance, which responds to the needs of peoples. In some cases traditional institutions are being undermined in the development process, in others they get involved with service delivery, which should be the responsibility of the State, without being provided with adequate resources and capacity-building. Considering the diversity of situations there is no single answer or solution. However, a need

[1] See E/C.19/2005/2, annex III, para. 8.
[2] See also E/C.19/2004/2.

exists to further the discussion and identify more elements and innovative ways to address the diverse situations of indigenous governance institutions.

33. In response to the diverse needs and situations of indigenous communities throughout the world, international organizations have adopted different approaches in their respective work situations. For example, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has adopted a policy of engagement within the framework of strengthening partnership with civil society. This policy provides guidance to UNDP staff to work with indigenous peoples and serves as a strong advocacy tool for advancing indigenous rights. A number of initiatives have been undertaken in indigenous communities in the areas of good governance in different parts of the world that have supported the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples through national advisory or consultation bodies. This has contributed to the preparation of national, regional and global human development reports which focus on diversity and on building capacity of indigenous organizations and governance.

34. A Government participant described recent important developments in his country, where the government had entered into a 10-year agreement with indigenous peoples aimed at addressing indigenous poverty and closing the gaps between the indigenous and the non-indigenous population. This agreement included the adoption of an approach, which did not make any distinctions in terms of the legal status of the various indigenous peoples, that was inclusive of indigenous women and contained accountability provisions and reporting requirements.

35. An indigenous participant highlighted the importance of indigenous participation in the review and development of laws and described some positive experiences of such participation at the regional level in a specific country. There was also a positive experience where negotiations between a timber company and indigenous people resulted in a favourable outcome that benefited both parties.

36. A representative of an indigenous organization pointed out that focusing on capacity-building, institution-building, engaging local and federal government and fostering partnerships made significant positive steps towards furthering indigenous issues in the region concerned and enabled indigenous peoples to have a greater influence on decision-making processes that affect their quality of life.

37. A participant reported on a project aiming at institution-building, which focuses on ensuring the direct participation of indigenous peoples in economic development and decision-making processes at the national, regional and local levels. The project supports sustainable political, economic and cultural development by establishing a training and economic development centre. Recognizing the need for capacity-building of all partners, another key objective is to strengthen government capacity to promote community development and nurture indigenous small businesses.

38. Also, bilateral donors can play a central role in supporting indigenous peoples' rights. An evaluation undertaken by four indigenous experts in 2000, commissioned by the Danish International Development Agency, of the implementation of the Danish policy in support of indigenous peoples revealed that a multifaceted and multilevel strategy can provide coherent results both at the international level and in bilateral cooperation. In direct project cooperation it was found that a majority of projects were implemented by either Danish or international NGOs, while very few

were implemented by indigenous organizations. This indicates a lack of capacity of the indigenous organizations or of the Danish agency to engage in direct partnerships, or an element of both. This review has led to a revised strategy for Danish support to indigenous peoples, with a strengthened focus on implementation and operational aspects.

39. The cooperation of national and local governments is essential, as is their willingness to recognize indigenous peoples. There is a great variance between countries and regions, where the strength of indigenous organizations is a determining factor. Ultimately, the success of development projects for indigenous peoples depends on the participation of indigenous peoples themselves in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, definition and realization of projects that affect their lives.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

40. Over the centuries, indigenous peoples have been subjected to racial, cultural and linguistic discrimination, territorial dispossession, colonial modes of government and various attempts at assimilation or imposition of national identities. Those experiences have prompted indigenous peoples to look back and reclaim their histories, while moving forward. That reclaiming of their histories, cultures and identities has been a source of empowerment, pride and hope for indigenous peoples, forming a basis for their human and sustainable development.

41. Six years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the definition of the eight Millennium Development Goals there is still little progress with regard to indigenous peoples' participation in the Millennium Development Goal processes. That implies that the processes are not used effectively to counter the continued processes of impoverishment of indigenous peoples, the inadequacies and discriminatory aspects of health, education and sustainable development services and programmes in indigenous communities and the continuing adverse impacts of the development models on indigenous peoples. Also, poverty reduction strategy papers and processes, developed to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the poorest countries, generally do not take the specific situation of indigenous peoples into account.

42. In general, the workshop noted with satisfaction a wide range of recent initiatives undertaken by governments, international organizations and indigenous institutions, and emphasized the need for more sustained efforts to move from discussion and analysis to action and implementation.

43. It was pointed out that the five objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People[3] should be used as guiding principles for addressing the issues of Millennium Development Goals, indigenous peoples and good governance, namely:

(a) Non-discrimination and inclusion;

(b) Full and effective participation;

(c) Development with culture/prospect for diversity;

[3] See A/60/270, para. 9.

(d) Targeted programmes and budgets for indigenous peoples with special emphasis on women, children and youth;

(e) Strengthened monitoring and accountability.

Governance as it affects indigenous peoples

44. In a number of countries, indigenous peoples have succeeded in promoting good governance through research, advocacy and reforms that incorporate indigenous rights in constitutions and legislation. Much more needs to be done, however, in terms of implementing such legislations and policies. Some positive experiences of development are seen in countries where indigenous peoples have a sound economic basis within a policy framework that supports indigenous self-governance. However, in most countries there is still a need to ensure an enabling environment and appropriate policy and legal frameworks to ensure coherence between the various layers of policies, development and governance structures that affect the situation of indigenous peoples. There is a clear need for government agencies and institutions to build their capacities to respond appropriately to the governance initiatives and needs of indigenous peoples.

45. At the global level, the effects of globalization and trade policies remain a concern for many indigenous peoples. Globalization has increased the exploitation of natural resources on indigenous peoples' lands and the privatization of basic social services, such as health, education, water and environmental services. Due to a lack of adequate policy frameworks and weak capacity, indigenous peoples are often in a disadvantaged position when negotiating. In a few countries, the private sector has realized that negotiating with indigenous peoples and obtaining their free, prior and informed consent constitutes a good business principle and there are a few examples of good practices in that regard.

46. At the local level, decentralization and devolution strategies can provide opportunities for strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples, in particular where they have decision-making roles. However, that also depends on the extent to which existing indigenous governance structures are included and the extent to which such devolution efforts reinforce the control and access of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources. For example, some countries only allow for the participation of indigenous representatives if they master the majority language or join national political parties. If decentralization is to fully contribute to respect for indigenous rights, differential treatment and acceptance of indigenous peoples' own governance structures and territorial integrity are required.

47. Governments, United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors often have limited capacity to deal with indigenous issues. Furthermore, government procedures may be more focused on control than on supporting good governance in indigenous communities, for example, by focusing on reporting requirements and providing short-term funding rather than supporting long-term processes of capacity-building for good governance. More often than not, discriminatory policies and attitudes against indigenous peoples still prevail which are major constraints in understanding and integrating indigenous peoples' views and practices regarding development and governance.

48. Capacity-building, good governance and conflict management in Africa are particularly urgent for indigenous peoples. Africa is the most disadvantaged and

neglected region in the United Nations system. Hence, there is a need for partnership-building between indigenous peoples' organizations in Africa, the United Nations and donor agencies to advance indigenous participation in governance systems through capacity-building, coalition-building and institutional policies and programmes sensitive to indigenous and gender issues. As regards Africa the workshop urged Governments and United Nations agencies to: increase the understanding of collective community rights based on extended family structures, increase the negotiation skills that will enable indigenous communities to gain the best possible benefits from development projects in their territories, promote understanding of the concept of free, prior and informed consent as vital to good governance and a human rights-based approach to development, increase the understanding of contracts, agreements and treaties that impact the livelihoods of indigenous communities, and strengthen indigenous governance structures based on gender equality and the principles of free and fair democratic elections and/or the accepted local indigenous ways of appointing leaders and governance structures.

49. **The workshop identified the following main recommendations relating to general governance issues, mainly addressed to Governments and United Nations agencies:**

(a) **Recognize indigenous institutions in national and decentralized governance set-ups, as a fundamental precondition for allowing indigenous peoples to contribute to the economy, the democratic process and the development of a given country;**

(b) **Support the development of policy and legislative frameworks that ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples at all level of governance, from local decentralization processes to global standard-setting. This is particularly important in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where many indigenous peoples are in a vulnerable situation;**

(c) **Build the capacity of Governments, United Nations agencies, donors and civil society to respect indigenous rights and to promote development with identity;**

(d) **Enhance the capacity of Governments to comply with their international obligations under international human rights law, international humanitarian law and multilateral environmental agreements;**

(e) **Promote the recruitment of indigenous people in United Nations institutions, especially in institutions that affect indigenous peoples;**

(f) **Urge Governments, with the participation of indigenous peoples as well as church leaders and other sectors of civil society, to organize a forum to explore ways to minimize the negative impacts of globalization on indigenous peoples.**

50. Overall, there is a need to provide training and capacity-building to indigenous peoples to understand trade and financial agreements and strengthen their capacity to negotiate with Governments and with the private sector and engage with World Trade Organization and regional trade negotiation processes.

Indigenous peoples' own governance structures

51. Indigenous peoples have their own governance institutions and structures; some are traditional, and others are adopting new forms in order to face changing circumstances and conditions in indigenous societies. In order to be effective, those institutions must be legitimate, in other words, they must have the support of the governed and have the power and resources to adequately perform their functions.

52. In general, it is found that legitimacy and capacity is built up where the concerned communities themselves are in control of decision-making. However, in most countries, the challenge of including indigenous peoples' own authorities and institutions in governance structures remains.

53. Indigenous governance institutions are often charged with a heavy and diverse workload, managing multiple aspects of community development and management, including delivery of government services on behalf of State government, but are often not provided the resources or the necessary training needed to undertake those tasks.

54. There are often several layers of structures in indigenous communities. These structures are also diversified according to, inter alia, gender, age, status and wealth. While recognizing the role of traditional authorities in the process of change, there is a risk of undermining the more traditional authorities if they do not participate in managing the process of change. It is also essential that indigenous cultures and governance systems are dynamic and able to respond to rapidly changing circumstances.

55. There are also challenges relating to good governance and human rights within indigenous institutions, for example, those related to women's rights and participation. Although the form of indigenous institutions and mechanisms may vary, it is necessary that they discuss and define their own ways of adhering to principles of human rights and good governance.

56. Leadership is a main factor contributing to successful processes of change. There is a particular need to build the capacity of women and emerging young indigenous leaders to take on the challenge of leadership of their communities.

57. The workshop called on indigenous peoples to:

(a) Ensure respect for human rights and good governance in indigenous institutions and promote the effective participation of women and youth;

(b) Explore possibilities for accessing established funds to invest in leadership and to promote good governance at the local level. This could be done through technical assistance programmes of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the secretariat of the Forum;

Governments and the intergovernmental system are recommended to:

(c) Recognize, support and strengthen indigenous governance systems;

(d) Provide training and capacity-building to indigenous peoples on international human rights instruments, including, inter alia, the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the

Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention No. 169, the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, and strengthen their capacity to ensure good governance.

(e) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs should consider providing technical support to build the capacity of indigenous local governance units to plan, implement and monitor development activities within their own social and cultural contexts.

(f) Initiate a series of dialogues on the question of leadership and what constitutes good governance, with special reference to women and young people, with their effective participation and the active participation of members of the Forum.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples

58. The compartmentalized approach of the eight specific Millennium Development Goals is often not in accordance with indigenous peoples' more holistic view of development and does not capture their priorities, for example, with regard to rights to lands, territories and resources. The Millennium Declaration provides a framework for addressing the Millennium Development Goals in a more holistic manner. The weak implementation of goal 8 (related to partnerships for development) is a specific concern, as it is aimed at ensuring the resources necessary to achieve the other Millennium Development Goals.

59. The institutional policies and innovative approaches of a number of organizations can potentially enhance indigenous peoples' participation, but for this to happen, their participation has to be ensured and implementation should not be limited to particular targeted areas and programmes. This calls for sustained action for coordination, dialogue, capacity-building, networking and coalition-building among all partners, as well as the provision of necessary resources for implementation. One entry point for such collaboration is the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which has the potential to promote inclusion of indigenous issues in the programmes of Government and United Nations agencies.

60. The dialogue between the United Nations and Government agencies concerned with the Millennium Development Goals is fragmented and collaboration on the ground is poor. Consultation with communities and villages on the Millennium Development Goals and the strategies required to achieve them also remain weak. The Millennium Development Goals are therefore often perceived as an externally driven development agenda with little or even an adverse impact on indigenous communities. Experiences suggest that there is a need to "localize" the Millennium Development Goals and to conduct processes of dialogue and discussion directly with the communities concerned. Such processes must include the diversity of the communities concerned, with a special focus on women and youth.

61. **In order to gain acceptance and legitimacy such processes should: involve the range of development partners on the ground; have the support of the Government; adhere to cultural imperatives for procedure; employ participatory methodologies and new technology; acknowledge the importance of women's participation; be conducted in indigenous languages; and be in accordance with indigenous notions of time and space. The principle of free,**

prior and informed consent is also essential for indigenous peoples' participation.

62. In order to face the overwhelming challenge of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the workshop emphasized the following operational recommendations for urgent implementation:

(a) Urge all actors, including States, NGOs, the United Nations system and private-sector actors to recognize indigenous peoples as peoples whose interests and rights matter in promoting the Millennium Development Goals, and to support and promote the human rights-based approach to development. The human-rights-based approach should consciously integrate the collective human rights of indigenous peoples;

(b) In order to promote effective indigenous participation and good governance, urge States to align their approaches for implementing the Millennium Development Goals with the standards and principles of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples;

(c) Urge Governments and the United Nations to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples, including those whose homelands are within developed countries, in national Millennium Development Goal processes; promote the inclusion of their rights, needs and priorities in national Millennium Development Goal processes and strategies; and ensure adequate funding for the development of such strategies;

(d) Request the Forum to develop practical processes and mechanisms to ensure that future monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals by States, and by United Nations agencies and programmes, fully recognizes indigenous peoples and the issues affecting them;

(e) Establish institutional, long-term and comprehensive mechanisms to ensure effective consultation and participation, which are not limited to specific project interventions but also address large-scale policy and advocacy issues and processes;

(f) Engage the regional economic commissions in addressing and examining trends and challenges for achieving the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples at the regional level;

(g) Support research, where possible undertaken by indigenous institutions, to analyse the impact of Millennium Development Goal programmes on indigenous peoples, including research into the impact of international, regional and bilateral trade and financial agreements; official development assistance policies and programmes; and the debt burden on indigenous peoples;

(h) Develop special Millennium Development Goal programmes with indigenous women, taking into account their particular health needs and rights, including those related to reproductive health, and provide grants that allow indigenous communities to localize the Millennium Development Goals;

(i) Build operational coalitions among the various development partners concerned, for example, through selecting a limited number of pilot countries or areas for concerted and complementary efforts to develop strategies and

mechanisms for achieving the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples.

(j) Invite indigenous representatives to assess the projects of Governments and agencies, in order to generate and share lessons learned and good practices.

(k) Strengthen the role of the Forum to facilitate, support and undertake research, including the development of partnerships with universities and indigenous peoples' organizations to provide specialized services, such as draft agreements, and to help mediate disputes.

63. The workshop called for concerted efforts by Governments, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples, on the following main recommendations regarding data collection:

(a) Support the establishment of institutionalized mechanisms for collecting disaggregated data, in the context of censuses as well as related to key social indicators, with full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the process of data collection, processing and monitoring;

(b) Develop specific complementary indicators for indigenous peoples, in addition to the general indicators stipulated within the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Provide special support to current constructive processes in Africa, for example, under the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, to explore the identification of indigenous peoples and their particular needs and rights.

Urbanization and migration

64. In urban areas most indigenous peoples have difficulty accessing adequate housing, infrastructure and services and suffer from discrimination and other acts such as forced evictions. Furthermore, when competing in the urban labour market they are vulnerable to becoming victims of violations of labour standards related to discrimination, forced labour, bonded labour and child labour as well as human trafficking. Human trafficking and illegal working conditions can adversely affect the health of indigenous peoples, including the transmission of HIV/AIDS, and indigenous peoples may be further affected by lack of access to services.

65. In many communities, the remittances of indigenous migrant workers constitute a main source of income and there is a potential for ensuring that such remittances are put to optimal use. Also, the donor community can be encouraged to make grants to match the contribution from remittances and thus expand the impact of such remittances in development initiatives.

66. The workshop recommended Governments and the United Nations system to:

(a) Urge States, the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration to pay special attention to the particularly difficult circumstances of indigenous migrants, within or across national borders, and to conduct further research, analysis and discussions on the implications of the increased urbanization as well as the internal and international migration of indigenous peoples.

Emerging issues and new initiatives

67. The workshop identified a number of emerging issues that will require further attention from all actors:

(a) Increased policy attention should be paid to the devastating effects of climate change and desertification on indigenous communities and to the emergence of environmental refugees.

(b) Support the establishment of a special trust fund to foster innovation, economic growth and shared prosperity within indigenous communities. Invite Governments to join together to support this effort.

(c) Urge Governments to create enabling investment environments and innovative sources for funding to strengthen indigenous peoples' economies and initiatives.

Annex I

Programme of work of the International Expert Group Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, indigenous participation and good governance

(New York, 11-13 January 2006)

Date/time	*Item/programme*	
Wednesday, 11 January		
10-10.30 a.m.		Opening of the workshop by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development
	Item 1	Election of Chairperson and Rapporteur
	Item 2	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 3	International standards and policies on participation and good governance, with reference to indigenous peoples
		International instruments and the work of such United Nations bodies as the Commission on Human Rights, the Forum and ILO
		Common United Nations policies and policies of United Nations agencies, funds, programmes
		Donor policies on participation and good governance with special reference to indigenous peoples
		What constitutes indigenous governance?
		How do the goals and needs of indigenous governance differ from the needs and goals of other public institutions?
		Opening presentations: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Paul Chartrand, Michael Dodson, Birgitte Feiring, Chandra Roy
3-6 p.m.	Item 4	Areas in which indigenous participation is relevant to the Millennium Development Goals
		• Mechanisms for representation and enforcement (including gender and youth)
		• Preparation of targets and indicators
		• Participatory budgeting
		• Participation in implementing, monitoring and evaluating Millennium Development Goal plans

Date/time	*Item/programme*	
		• Preparation of Millennium Development Goal country reports • What are the links between indigenous governance, democracy and human development? • How to bridge the gap between the theories of governance and actual tools and practices needed to strengthen or rebuild indigenous governance? Presentations: Fiu Elisara; Mónica Alemán; Sarah Titchen
Thursday, 12 January		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 5	Enablers and spoilers in indigenous participation and good governance, with special reference to Millennium Development Goals • Democratic participatory decision-making • Involving indigenous representatives; interface and cooperation with indigenous governance systems • Transparent management of the public sector • Access to public service, public administration and financial management • Public access to information • Accountability and integrity of government in decision and implementation processes • Access to funding • Access to the legal and judicial system • Decentralization and good governance • Obstacles, including lack of relevant statistics, corruption and others • The role of the private sector in policy, legislation reforms and in defining the development agenda and how this affects indigenous peoples • Role of the donor community in enhancing or weakening indigenous peoples' participation in governance and achievement of Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples

Date/time	*Item/programme*	
		• Focus on the persistent barriers that block indigenous peoples' access to funding, the legal and judicial systems and public information such as statistics • What is the role of the donor community in enhancing or weakening indigenous peoples' participation in governance? Presentations: Farmark Hlawnching; Julie Kitka; Saoudata Aboubakrine; Fabiana Del Popolo
3-6 p.m.	Item 6	Good examples of indigenous participation in governance policies, laws, budgets and practices with special reference to Millennium Development Goals • In the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations • Bilateral donor bodies • In State practice • Highlight and provide examples or case studies of the importance of indigenous representation in decision-making and strategies that advance indigenous participation and leadership in institutional policies, programmes and mechanisms(including gender and youth) • Provide examples of the impact of equal participation of indigenous women and men in decision-making processes and the achievement of the goal of sustainable development Presentations: Irina Shafrannik; Maria Choque; Selman Erguden
Friday, 13 January		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 7	Strategies for building institutions and capacities for indigenous participation and good governance
3-6 p.m.	Item 8	Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

Annex II

List of participants

Members of the Forum

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

William Langeveldt

Michael Dodson

Invited experts

Saoudata Aboubakrine, Tin Hinan Association (Burkina Faso)

Mónica Alemán, MADRE

Paul Chartrand (Canada)

Maria Choque (Bolivia)

Fiu Elisara-La'ulu, Ole Siosiomage Society Incorporated (Samoa)

Famark Hlawncheng, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Julie Kitka (United States of America)

Irina Shafrannik (Russian Federation)

United Nations system

Departments of Public Information and Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

International Fund for Agricultural Development

United Nations Population Fund

International Labour Organization

United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Development Fund for Women

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Bank

Other intergovernmental organizations

European Commission

International Organization for Migration

Non-governmental organizations

International Native Traditional-Interchange

Lauravetl'an Information and Education Network of Indigenous Peoples

Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas Evangélicas del Ecuador-Feine

Aboriginal Mother Centre Society

Reconciliation Australia

Native Studies Department, University of Saskatchewan

States

Austria

Bangladesh

Bolivia

Botswana

Canada

Colombia

Cyprus

Germany

Greece

Guatemala

Indonesia

Japan

Mexico

Poland

Russian Federation

Turkey

United States of America

Holy See

United Nations E/C.19/2006/8

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Ongoing priorities and themes

Ongoing priorities and themes

Note by the Secretariat**

Summary

The present note is an overview of developments under the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since its fourth session, as reflected in the contributions of the United Nations system and the activities of members of the Forum and its secretariat. Suggestions for consideration by the Forum are also included.

* E/C.19/2006/1.

** The present document was submitted late in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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Introduction

1. Since the conclusion of the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a variety of activities of relevance to indigenous peoples have been carried out by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, other non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, members of the Forum and the secretariat of the Forum. In October 2005, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat had invited written contributions from stakeholders on the follow-up to the fourth session and the preparations for the fifth session of the Forum. Contributions were encouraged that encompassed: (a) a response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the particular organization, fund, programme or department or to Governments; (b) a response to recommendations addressed to one or more organizations, or to the United Nations system in general; (c) the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Forum's recommendations; (d) other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the organization, fund, programme or department; (d) information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the fifth session; (e) the name of and contact information for the focal point on indigenous issues in the organization, fund, programme or department; and (f) a list of conferences and other meetings under the organization's auspices regarding indigenous issues in 2006 and 2007.

2. As at 17 March 2006, written submissions had been received from 19 United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, non-governmental organizations and Governments, encompassing the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Governments of Argentina, Denmark, Mexico and Switzerland and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, namely, the Indian Law Resource Centre, Tebtebba Foundation, the Saami Council and VIVAT International. First reports were submitted by Argentina, Switzerland, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations Country Team in Ecuador.

3. Following the fourth session of the Forum, the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2005, in July, had considered the report of the Forum and endorsed the draft decisions submitted for action by the Forum. The 2005 World Summit, which was convened at United Nations Headquarters in September 2005, included significant references to indigenous peoples in the World Summit Outcome.[1]

[1] See General Assembly resolution 60/1, paras. 46, 56 (d) and (e) and 127.

4. The present note is a general overview of the contributions of the United Nations system and of the main activities of members of the Forum and its secretariat in promoting the implementation of the Forum's mandate. Cross-references are made as necessary. Throughout the text, recommendations appear in bold.

I. Developments under the mandated areas and special themes of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

A. Economic and social development, including the Millennium Development Goals

5. Most of the written contributions received were linked to economic and social development. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues at its 2005 session focused on United Nations system action at regional and country levels and was able to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities for strengthening such action. Discussions revealed, in particular, a great need for capacity-building on indigenous issues within the United Nations country teams and government organizations, as well as the need for information on the Forum and its recommendations (see E/C.19/2006/3). Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Forum, and Eduardo Aguiar de Almeida, Forum member, participated in the session which was convened by UNICEF and hosted by the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City in September 2005. **The Group, inter alia, recommended that United Nations country teams establish inter-agency thematic groups on indigenous issues at national level and use the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/60/270, sect. II) as a framework for common strategies and advocacy.**

6. The United Nations Country Team in Ecuador set a good example of coordination by establishing an Inter-Agency Working Group on Interculturalism, dealing largely with indigenous issues and producing the first-ever report by a Team to the Forum. The Team found this working method useful for including an intercultural perspective in the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) and making indigenous issues operational. It concluded that the international agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals, offered a space for dealing with the intercultural perspective as a human rights issue, and that the Forum's recommendations constituted a guide for aligning the agendas of indigenous peoples, Governments and the international system. **The United Nations Country Team in Ecuador recommends that the Forum examine the experiences of coordination within the United Nations system at the national level in relation to indigenous peoples and that it formulate specific recommendations to strengthen this work.**

7. Following a recommendation of the Forum at its second session, a meeting was organized between three members of the Forum, namely, Yuri Boychenko, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and William Langeveldt, and some 40 representatives of international financial institutions. The meeting was held in November 2005 at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and gave the Forum members the opportunity to explain the mandate of the Forum, and its main recommendations regarding

international financial institutions, and to invite those institutions to engage with the Forum and to build capacity of their staff on indigenous issues.

8. In November 2005, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Langeveldt and Aqqaluk Lynge attended a workshop organized by IFAD on lessons learned from the Fund's work with indigenous communities.

Desk review of the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework

9. The secretariat of the Forum commissioned a desk review of common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in 10 countries in order to ascertain whether and how indigenous peoples had been included therein. It is recalled that the most recent revision of the Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidelines in 2004 included indigenous issues, following proposals of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. The main observations and recommendations stemming from these desk reviews were the following:

Observations

(a) In countries with some positive policies towards indigenous peoples, United Nations country teams had been able to include indigenous peoples, analyse their situations and identify their key development issues with relative ease. On the other hand, in the absence of such national policies, inclusion with similar vigour of indigenous peoples and their issues was not possible;

(b) The involvement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights during the preparation of Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks had proved to be effective in terms of inclusion of indigenous peoples and adoption of a human rights-based development approach;

(c) The issue of participation of indigenous peoples had not been highlighted, even in those Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks that had been prepared after the issuance of the 2004 Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidelines. Participation of indigenous peoples should begin in the preparatory processes of Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

(d) Non-availability of ethnically disaggregated data still remained one of the biggest impediments to inclusion of indigenous peoples in Common Country Assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes and this problem needed immediate attention;

(e) In the analysis of situations of indigenous peoples, an assessment of their capacities to participate in programme formulation and implementation as well as to claim their own rights was missing, probably because of time and information constraints. Nevertheless, the issue was of utmost importance and warranted priority and targeted action.

Recommendations

(a) **The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should continue its support to United Nations country teams in the form of fielding human rights advisers, and holding regional workshops for United Nations country teams, government officials and indigenous organizations. The Forum and the Office of the High Commissioner should collaborate in that regard;**

(b) **Given the significant lack of awareness and capacity on indigenous issues, the Forum and its secretariat should develop a practical toolkit, the primary users of which would be civil society, government and United Nations country teams as well as other donors at country level;**

(c) **The Forum should develop a basic set of indigenous peoples-specific targets and indicators to which programme designers at country level could refer in developing their own indigenous peoples-specific targets and indicators suitable for their respective countries;**

(d) **The Forum should promote increased referral and advisory services for United Nations country teams regarding indigenous issues;**

(e) **United Nations country teams should advocate and support programmes aimed at enhancing the availability of ethnically disaggregated accurate and reliable data;**

(f) **While assessing the situations of indigenous peoples, United Nations country teams should take into consideration their special social, political and historical contexts along with statistical data;**

(g) **United Nations country teams should support and/or undertake programmes aimed at capacity-building of indigenous peoples so as to enable them to participate in and contribute to programme formulation and take ownership of programme implementation;**

(h) **United Nations country teams should designate focal points on indigenous issues;**

(i) **United Nations country teams should form technical working groups on indigenous issues that would comprise indigenous peoples, other parts of civil society, government, bilateral and multilateral donors, and United Nations organizations;**

(j) **United Nations country teams should solicit more advice and support from the Forum and the Office of the High Commissioner.**

Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: desk review of Millennium Development Goal country reports

10. In an effort to provide the Forum with a basic overview on whether and how indigenous issues are taken into account in the Millennium Development Goals processes, the Forum secretariat has continued to conduct desk reviews. Twenty Millennium Development Goal reports were reviewed in 2005. Some of the conclusions and recommendations from this review are highlighted below:

(a) Over 80 per cent of the Millennium Development Goal reports surveyed did not sufficiently include indigenous peoples;

(b) Most of the reports did not include indigenous peoples' organizations either in the collection of information for the report, or in the planning for future interventions designed to target marginalized groups for assistance;

(c) Although some countries in one degree or another mentioned indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities in relation to either specific goals or targets, they did not mention any targeted interventions specifically addressed to them, nor any efforts towards their full and effective participation. In the context of the Millennium Development Goals, free, prior and informed consent should apply not only to land development initiatives, but to all development initiatives focused on improving the lives of indigenous peoples;

(d) Most of the reports did not refer to indigenous peoples directly, but used different terminology, including regional or rural disparities, to express disproportionate development, when in fact these regions and/or rural settings often corresponded to indigenous lands and territories;

(e) While some of the reports mentioned the ethnic diversity of the countries and presented indigenous peoples as marginalized and in need of targeted interventions, none of the reports disaggregated data regarding the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples. Therefore, the realities in respect of indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals were most likely obscured. More focus on data disaggregation is indispensable for the future success of the Millennium Development Goals within countries with indigenous and marginalized populations;

(f) In future reports, when indigenous peoples' organizations are mentioned as having been consulted in the production of the report, it would be useful for the authors to provide examples of good practices in that regard so as to underline the importance of this process;

(g) The effective participation of indigenous peoples in environmental programmes can contribute to conservation and development. In Namibia, the setting up of conservation areas to enable the indigenous peoples of those areas to become both conservationists and the leaders of ecotourism provides a good example of how the State can simultaneously protect the environment and foster the development of the indigenous peoples;

(h) **Both developed and developing countries should do more to include indigenous peoples within the framework of the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 8. As it is, none of the Millennium Development Goal reports reviewed referred to indigenous peoples in the context of meeting Goal 8;**

(i) **Governments with indigenous peoples should incorporate the issues and challenges specifically faced by indigenous peoples directly into the framework of the Millennium Development Goal report by: (i) including indigenous peoples within the context of the overall report; (ii) including indigenous peoples in the context of meeting each specific goal; (iii) including indigenous peoples in the planning of the overall report and each individual goal; and (iv) including indigenous peoples' effective participation in the**

planning process of future interventions, as well as in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects that will directly or indirectly affect them.

11. **The challenges encountered in the inclusion of indigenous issues in the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as in Millennium Development Goal country reports, require the special attention of the Forum.** The need for capacity-building within the United Nations system, including country teams, as well as the effective participation of government and indigenous organizations in these processes has been repeatedly underlined, including by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. **The Forum may wish to promote special measures so that programmatic instruments, especially Millennium Development Goal reports and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), as well as Common Country Assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, will include indigenous peoples. Important recommendations in that regard are included in the reports of the Support Group and the International Expert Group Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance** which was held in January 2006, pursuant to decisions taken by the Forum and the Economic and Social Council (see E/C.19/2006/7).[2]

B. Environment

12. Environment, one of the Forum's substantive mandated areas, includes a number of important related issues, such as conservation, traditional knowledge, access and benefit-sharing, forests, climate change and environmental sustainability, which also relate to Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals. The processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity,[3] Climate Change[4] and the United Nations Forum on Forests are among the most relevant in this field. Linking poverty and conservation is an area of growing concern and activity.

Participation of Forum members at relevant meetings

13. Mr. Langeveldt and Parshuram Tamang participated in the symposium "Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity", co-organized by UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations University (UNU), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Forum secretariat in cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and held in Tokyo from 30 May to 2 June 2005. The symposium was attended by nearly 80 participants and consisted of 9 sessions. The Forum and Convention secretariats organized a session on "Protective Measures for Sacred Sites in the Context of the *Akwé: Kon* Guidelines" (see document UNEP/CBD/WG8J/4/INF/4).

14. The International Technical Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge was held from 21 to 23 September 2005 in Panama City. It had been organized in

[2] Papers presented at the Expert Group Meeting are available from www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

response to a recommendation of the Forum at its fourth session and hosted by the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Workshop was attended by 12 indigenous experts and representatives of 8 United Nations entities. During the workshop, participants exchanged information and discussed extensively ways in which different United Nations entities working on traditional knowledge could better integrate a more collaborative, complementary and holistic approach to traditional knowledge in order to enhance the understanding of indigenous concerns and the means of addressing them (see E/C.19/2006/2).[5]

15. Mr. Tamang participated in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (January-February 2006, Granada, Spain). The main issues considered at these meetings included the need for collaboration and sharing of negotiations between the two Working Groups as well as the need to avoid a duplication of the efforts of relevant international organizations (WIPO, World Tourism Organization) on potential elements in the development of sui generis systems for protecting traditional knowledge. Indigenous participation in the main Convention on Biological Diversity processes related to article 8 (j) and access and benefit-sharing is a major priority.

16. In February 2006, Pavel Sulyandziga participated in the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York, pursuant to a recommendation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

17. Mr. Aguiar de Almeida and Mr. Tamang attended the eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006.

Other relevant activities

18. UNESCO has reported on a number of issues relating to the environment (see E/C.19/2006/6/Add.9) including the UNESCO Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) initiative as well as two publications, *Reef and Rainforest: An Environmental Encyclopedia of Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands* by Edvard Hviding[6] and *Water and Indigenous Peoples*.[7]

19. Since the Forum's fourth session, the Forum secretariat has been involved in two environment-related meetings:

- Poverty and Conservation Learning Group meeting, held at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) — World Conservation Monitoring Group Centre, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 12 and 13 December 2005. The meeting highlighted, inter alia, the fact that the majority of donor agencies did not see a significant link between biodiversity conservation and their mission of poverty eradication, and the belief of indigenous organizations that conservation could cause or exacerbate poverty in some cases, for example, cases where indigenous peoples had been evicted from their territories and lands to make way for conservation parks.

[5] Papers presented at the Workshop are available from www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.

[6] Knowledges of Nature 1 (Paris, UNESCO, 2005).

[7] Knowledges of Nature 2, R. Boelens, M. Chiba and D. Nakashima, eds. (Paris, UNESCO, 2006).

- Tsleil-Waututh International Gathering: Indigenous Perspectives on Access and Benefit-Sharing from the Use of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, Vancouver, Canada, 25 February-2 March 2006. The meeting provided an opportunity for elders and community members to become involved in issues discussed at the global level in relation to traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

20. **Indigenous peoples' participation is still a high priority in the area of environment, particularly within the United Nations system. Better coordination is required in respect of issues such as traditional knowledge, access and benefit-sharing, sui generis systems and linkages between conservation and poverty eradication.**

21. **Possible recommendations that the Forum might consider are:**

- **Support for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other environment-related bodies, in all levels of discussion, decision-making and implementation, and the recommendation that the necessary funding be provided to guarantee such participation as well as build the capacity of indigenous peoples.**
- **Support for the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in regard to in-session workshops, including indigenous expert meetings that would facilitate the discussion of the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples. Particular themes that could be addressed include specific impacts on fragile and vulnerable ecosystems, the interconnection between climate change and poverty, and the impact of climate change on indigenous knowledge and traditional practices.**
- **Examination of the impact of conservation on indigenous harvesting practices.**
- **Examination of the issue of sui generis regimes as a means of protecting indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge.**
- **Examination of the linkages between conservation and poverty eradication.**
- **Possible membership in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests within the United Nations Forum on Forests.**

C. Education

22. The mandate and work of UNICEF and UNESCO are crucial in the global efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goal 2, namely, universal primary education. Both organizations have been carrying out extensive work on education, including activities of relevance for indigenous peoples. The important roles of mother tongue and intercultural education as guiding principles in the promotion of indigenous children's primary education have been widely recognized and many initiatives at national level are in the process of implementation, in particular, for example, in Latin America. It is encouraging that UNESCO has been developing a

position paper and a database on intercultural education and that UNICEF has been strengthening efforts to promote indigenous girls' education in several Latin American countries.[8]

23. Mick Dodson participated in the Fifth World Indigenous Education Conference in November 2005 in Hamilton, New Zealand, and was a keynote speaker at the panel on "Education for All and MDG 2: universal achievement of primary education" organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Forum secretariat. On numerous occasions, the Forum had stressed that primary education for indigenous children should be sensitive to indigenous cultures, histories and values; it should be in children's mother tongue at least for early learning, and it should be bilingual and intercultural so as to prepare the future of children.

24. At the Workshop on Partnership Visions for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People co-organized by the Greenland Home Rule Government with the Forum and the Government of Denmark in Nuuk, Greenland, in February 2006, much discussion focused on partnership-building with indigenous peoples in the field of education. **It was recommended that the Programme of Action for the Decade and the rights-based approach should constitute the framework for partnership-building in this area**.[9]

D. Health

25. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz paid an official visit to WHO in Geneva on 25 November 2005 and met with the Director of the Office of the Director-General of WHO as well as a number of senior officials of different departments relevant to indigenous issues. Matters of mental health, suicide and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, traditional medicine, Millennium Development Goals, diabetes, tobacco and policy were discussed.

26. Some of the challenges faced by WHO in addressing specific health issues of indigenous peoples were noted, encompassing the collection of data based on ethnicity, activities of regional offices in the field of traditional medicine, specific indigenous programmes on HIV/AIDS, diabetes and tobacco, and possible advantages and disadvantages of having an organizational policy on indigenous peoples.

27. On the same occasion, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz paid a courtesy visit to UNAIDS, during which she met with the Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS. As a result of this visit and in response to recommendation 136 of the Forum at its fourth session,[10] UNAIDS has sought to bring more visibility to the issue of indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS as reflected in the presentation of its first report to the Forum in 2006. The report is in the form of an issues paper which broadly maps out a number of challenges in addressing HIV/AIDS in indigenous communities.

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[8] For the reports of Mexico, UNICEF and UNESCO, see E/C.19/2006/4/Add.3, E/C.19/2006/6/Add.11 and E/C.19/2006/6/Add.9, respectively.

[9] For the Nuuk Workshop report, see information received from the Government of Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government as contained in document E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2. Papers presented at the Workshop are available from www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43), chap. I.

E. Culture

28. Mr. Langeveldt and Mr. Tamang attended the international symposium "Conserving cultural and biological diversity: the role of sacred natural sites and cultural landscapes", co-organized by UNESCO, UNU, IUCN, FAO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Forum secretariat. References to indigenous peoples' sacred sites and their protection were made in the final declaration of the symposium (see document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/4/INF/4) of 21 December 2005.

29. In February 2006, UNESCO organized an international workshop on cultural resource mapping in Havana in the context of a regional meeting on "New Perspectives on Cultural Diversity: The Role of Communities". Otilia Lux de Coti represented the Forum. As the representative of Guatemala in the UNESCO Executive Board, Ms. Lux de Coti also participated in relevant meetings convened for the purpose of adopting the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

30. UNESCO, as lead organization in the field of culture, has continued its work on standard-setting and on operational programmes relating to cultural diversity and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. The information provided by UNESCO to the Forum at its fifth session includes an extensive account of the variety of activities undertaken by UNESCO in relation to indigenous peoples. With a view to developing a sustainable partnership with indigenous peoples in all areas of the work of UNESCO, the Forum **may consider recommending to UNESCO that it establish an institutional partnership with indigenous peoples so that they can fully participate in the monitoring mechanisms of UNESCO Conventions that are relevant to indigenous peoples, such as the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**.

F. Human rights

31. Members of the Forum have been actively involved in a series of activities on human rights. Mr. Langeveldt addressed the thirty-eighth session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The engagement with the Forum of the Commission and its Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa will certainly be beneficial for the Forum's half-day discussion on Africa at its fifth session.

32. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Wilton Littlechild participated in the Expert Seminar on "Constitutional Reforms, Legislation and Implementation of Laws regarding the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" organized by the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson to support the annual thematic research work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

33. Mr. Aguiar de Almeida attended a symposium in Belem, Brazil, on voluntarily isolated peoples of Amazonia and the Gran Chaco region of South America. An International Alliance for the Protection of Isolated Indigenous Peoples was

convened by organizations attending the symposium and the Belem Declaration on Isolated Indigenous Peoples was issued on 11 November 2005.

34. It is encouraging to note, based on the contribution of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Forum at its fifth session (E/C.19/2006/6/Add.8) that the human rights treaty bodies continued to pay increased attention to indigenous peoples in their concluding observations after the examination of the reports of States parties. Furthermore, the Committee on the Rights of the Child continued to work towards the drafting of a general comment on indigenous children, following the Committee's thematic discussion on this topic in 2003. Joint urgent appeals were sent by several special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights on specific human rights situations of indigenous peoples worldwide. The Forum **may wish to consider starting a dialogue involving human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the newly established Human Rights Council, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a view to seeking support to build the capacity of indigenous peoples and their organizations to better utilize these mechanisms for the protection and promotion of their rights**.

35. In view of the establishment of the Human Rights Council in March 2006, the Forum Chairperson, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, addressed a letter on behalf of the Forum to the President of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, which stated:

> At this moment of institutional change, on behalf of the Permanent Forum I wish to convey, through Your Excellencies, to the members of the General Assembly and of the Commission on Human Rights the strong support of the Permanent Forum for an enhanced substantive focus on the human rights of indigenous peoples in the new Human Rights Council.

G. Awareness-raising and information

Awareness-raising events

36. At the 58th Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference (New York, 7-9 September 2005), Ms. Tauli-Corpuz participated in a high-level panel on building partnerships and highlighted the establishment of the Forum as one of the best global expressions of partnership among indigenous peoples, Governments, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and the academic community.[11]

37. At the commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (see General Assembly resolution 49/214) at United Nations Headquarters in August 2005, a panel discussion was organized entitled "The Cause of Indigenous Peoples is Ours" and the new film produced by the Forum, entitled *Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations*, was screened. A cultural event was also organized, messages for the Day were issued by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second

[11] *Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal: Final Report* is available from http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/annualrep05.pdf.

International Decade, and the Chairperson of the Forum and indigenous performers participated at the event.

38. During the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held from 16 to 18 November 2005 in Tunis, the Forum participated in an event on a feasibility study for the creation of a virtual permanent forum that would make the Forum's work more accessible to communities using information and communication technologies (ICT).

Bartolome de las Casas award

39. On 19 December 2005, it was announced that the fifteenth Bartolome de las Casas award[12] had been awarded by the Spanish Government to Ms. Lux de Coti. At the same time, the Forum received an honorific mention in recognition of its role as a multilateral body that guaranteed the presence and voices of indigenous peoples in the United Nations system.

Logo competition for indigenous children and youth

40. In order to promote further knowledge of the Forum and the United Nations among indigenous children and youth, the Forum at its second session had decided to organize an indigenous youth art competition for the design of a logo for the Forum.[13] The Forum received a total of 148 entries from around the world.

Material produced by the Forum

41. The Forum secretariat in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat prepared the poster for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The painting for the poster was a contribution of Carlos Jacanamijoy, an Inga artist from Colombia.

42. The Forum secretariat, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, produced the indigenous youth brochure entitled "Speak Up" in English, Spanish, French and Russian. The brochure describes how indigenous youth can become involved in the work of the Forum and is available from http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/publications.html.

43. Annually, the Forum secretariat produces four issues of an internal newsletter addressed to Forum members as well as four issues of a public newsletter in English. After the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues 2005 session held in Panama City, the UNICEF country office in Venezuela offered its cooperation in producing informal translations into Spanish. The public newsletter now includes some news from field offices and is available from http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/newsletter.html.

44. The Forum secretariat produced a 30-minute film entitled *Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations*, in French, English and Spanish, for distribution to United Nations country offices and Governments for the purpose of promoting integration of indigenous issues in their work and providing general information on the Forum.

[12] Information is available from http://www.casamerica.es/programacion/premio.jsp.

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 18.

45. The Forum secretariat in cooperation with United Nations Radio/Spanish Radio Section produced five radio spots for a public service announcement on the Millennium Development Goals, using indigenous people's voices and music. It is available from http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/es/multimedia.html.

46. The new website of the Forum secretariat, launched in March 2006, is an important information and communication tool.

H. Promotion of integration and coordination

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

47. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above, UNICEF chaired and hosted the annual session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in 2005. The Fondo Indigena participated in the Support Group session for the first time and the Commonwealth Secretariat joined in February 2006, thus bringing the total number of Support Group members to 29. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Aguiar de Almeida participated in the session as well.

48. Some important recommendations included: **(a) building capacity within United Nations country teams on indigenous issues; (b) appointing focal points on indigenous issues in order that an inter-agency group might be formed at the regional level; (c) establishing an inter-agency readers' group for the review of draft common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework documents; (d) requesting the United Nations Development Group to distribute the report of the Support Group to regional directors of United Nations organizations in other regions with a view to initiating similar processes; and (e) creating inter-agency thematic groups on indigenous issues within United Nations country teams to follow up once a year on the recommendations of the Forum**.

49. The Forum secretariat was also involved in coordinating the International Technical Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge mentioned in paragraph 14 above.

United Nations Development Group (UNDG)

50. In order to promote the integration of indigenous issues in the United Nations Development Group, including at the operational country level, the Forum secretariat participates in selected Development Group meetings, namely, those of the UNDG Support Group, the UNDG Programme Group, the Working Group on Capacity Development, the Task Force on Civil Society, the Task Force on Gender, and the Task Force on Non-Resident Agencies. The Forum secretariat perceives the conceptual and coordination efforts undertaken through the Development Group to be significant for the integration of indigenous issues within the United Nations system, given the fact that most development bodies, funds and programmes as well as departments participate in the Development Group.

Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

51. The main achievement of the Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs since the fourth session

has been the design and adoption of the "Framework of Department of Economic and Social Affairs technical cooperation programmes in countries with indigenous peoples". This Framework is to be used as a technical capacity-building tool in the formulation and implementation of activities of Department of Economic and Social Affairs technical cooperation programmes. The Framework structure comprises four main sections: identifying indigenous peoples in diverse contexts; participation and free, prior and informed consent; collection and disaggregation of data; and indigenous women.

Strengthening of local governments with indigenous authorities

52. As a result of the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues, the Forum secretariat and the Division for Public Administration and Development Management are co-managing an interdivisional project on issues related to institutional capacity of local governments led by indigenous authorities. At the invitation of the Government of Ecuador, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Division organized, in Quito, a consultative meeting with indigenous leaders attended by 20 indigenous leaders from local governments, indigenous authorities at the provincial level and representatives of indigenous organizations working at community, regional and national levels. The main goal of the project is the empowerment of communities in municipalities with indigenous authorities through institutional capacity-building.

I. Indigenous children and youth

Ibero-American Meeting on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Adolescents

53. Indigenous leaders and 80 indigenous children and adolescents from 17 Latin American countries, Ms. Lux de Coti and Nina Pacari Vega, representatives of several United Nations organizations and representatives of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) participated in the Ibero-American Meeting on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Adolescents, held on 7 and 8 July 2005 in Madrid. Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain also participated in the meeting, which had been co-organized by the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the assistance of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency and the UNICEF National Committee in Spain. Issues raised during the meeting included the need for a UNICEF policy on indigenous children and youth, the creation of national indigenous youth and children forums, the importance for indigenous youth and children of knowing and using international treaties and human rights procedures, development with identity as an indispensable approach to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, capacity-building and the inclusion of a gender perspective. Areas highlighted for priority attention included migration, armed conflict, lack of participation, health and education that are basically and culturally inappropriate, environmental degradation, unemployment, and unregistered births.

Youth Assembly

54. The Forum secretariat addressed the Youth Assembly on 4 August 2005 at United Nations Headquarters. About 200 young people attended the session, where

the audience also heard from an indigenous Quechua elder from Peru, who expressed his vision of how young people could go about seeking a better world for all.

Website section on youth

55. The Forum secretariat created a special website section on indigenous youth and children (www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/children.html).

Youth brochure

56. The Forum secretariat released a brochure on Indigenous Children, Youth and the Permanent Forum, which is available in English, Spanish, French and Russian.

Youth Unit

57. The Forum secretariat is closely working with the Youth Unit/Division on Social Policy and Development/Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support and promote indigenous youth participation at the Forum's sessions.

J. Indigenous women

Task Force on Indigenous Women: compilation of case studies

58. The Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality was established in 2004, is composed of 15 United Nations entities and chaired by the Forum secretariat. In 2005-2006, the Task Force collected good practices and lessons learned from the work of the United Nations system with indigenous women. The collection of case studies on the work of the United Nations with indigenous women contains 18 cases submitted by the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM on their work with indigenous women in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Task Force intends to publish this collection once it is finalized and to disseminate it widely so that it may serve as a practical tool for future work of the United Nations system and other organizations engaging with indigenous peoples. The compilation is available from http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/IANGWE_indigenouswomen_mar3.pdf.

Commission on the Status of Women

59. During the fifteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the official panel for the commemoration of International Women's Day, on 8 March 2006, included Ms. Noeli Pocaterra, President of the Permanent Commission for Indigenous People in the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Forum secretariat co-sponsored, jointly with MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), a side event on "Violence against Indigenous Women". The Forum secretariat also participated in a panel on opportunities and challenges for women in the Americas organized by UNIFEM/Latin American and Caribbean Countries (LAC) and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations.

Gender and statistics

60. Merike Kokajev attended the Sixth International Meeting on Gender Statistics: From Beijing to the Millennium Development Goals, held from 27 to 29 September 2005, in Aguascalientes, Mexico. UNIFEM, Mexico's National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics, and the National Women's Institute organized this event. Ms. Kokajev addressed relevant recommendations adopted by the Forum at its third and fourth sessions linking indigenous women and data collection and disaggregation.

Second Meeting of United Nations Agencies and Indigenous Women Representatives of Central America and Mexico

61. From 23 to 25 June 2005, Ms. Lux de Coti and Ms. Pacari Vega participated in the Second Meeting of United Nations Agencies and Indigenous Women Representatives of Central America and Mexico, organized by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Gender of Mexico, UNIFEM Mexico, the International Indigenous Women's Forum and the Mexican National Commission for Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Lux de Coti and Ms. Pacari Vega gave a presentation on the Forum's mandate and its recommendations on indigenous women.

Projects

62. In December 2005, the General Assembly approved a project under the Development Account the main objective of which is to strengthen the capacity of institutions at the national and community levels in selected Latin American countries to better engage indigenous women in decision-making processes by utilizing new information and communication technologies (see document A/60/6 (Sect. 34), annex, sect. W, for a fuller description). The project will be executed by the Forum secretariat in cooperation with various other United Nations organizations.

II. Additional activities undertaken by the Forum secretariat to follow up on recommendations of the Forum and to promote the Forum's mandate

World Summit on the Information Society

63. Following the recommendation of the Forum, the Forum secretariat, as a member of the World Summit on the Information Society International Indigenous Steering Committee (IISC), supported at the Tunis phase of the World Summit the parallel event entitled "Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society: Towards an International Indigenous Portal"[*]. Co-Chairs for this parallel event were Mr. Littlechild, Forum member, and Eliana Pongiluppi, Board member, Comunic Internacional. During the event, the International Telecommunication Union announced its commitment to appointing a focal point for indigenous peoples. Hassan Id Balkassm participated on a panel organized by Geography Wise Productions and

[*] The final report on the event is available from http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/wsis-themes/indigenous/IISC-report-final.pdf.

Dialogue Between Nations, where he highlighted the mandate and activities of the Forum.

Brisbane International Conference on Engaging Communities

64. Within the framework of the International Conference on Engaging Communities, held in Brisbane, Australia, from 14 to 17 August 2005, the Forum secretariat, on 15 August, organized a capacity-building workshop, in cooperation with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia, on engaging indigenous peoples in governance processes. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Dodson. Mr. Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, served as Rapporteur. A major output of the workshop, attended by over 160 indigenous and other participants, comprised guidelines for engagement with indigenous peoples, intended as a resource for national and local officials engaged in governance processes. The Forum secretariat has posted these guidelines on its website (www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/publications.html).

Ottawa meeting on Indicators

65. As a follow-up to recommendations of the Forum, the Forum secretariat is organizing a series of meetings for developing indigenous-specific indicators to capture indigenous peoples' perspectives of poverty and well-being. The first such meeting will be held in Ottawa on 22 and 23 March 2006 within the framework of the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, in cooperation with Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada. The conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Forum at its fifth session.

66. This meeting, along with a series of other such meetings in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the contributions of the Inter-Agency Support Group in its report to the Forum at its fifth session, will provide recommendations for a core set of global and regional indicators, which may then be utilized by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system when designing and monitoring programmes that directly affect indigenous peoples.

International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

67. The Forum secretariat organized a special event at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in March 2006, that brought together a panel of Forum members, namely, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Aguiar de Almeida, indigenous experts and representatives of United Nations organizations. The panel emphasized the fact that agrarian reform and rural development must be sensitive to indigenous peoples' rights and that, although they had many interests in common with the rural poor, indigenous peoples also had very distinct interests which, at times, were and had been threatened by policies and programmes intended to eradicate rural poverty. Central to these were indigenous peoples' communal rights to land, territories and resources which were threatened by an increasing emphasis on individual rights to land and the commoditization of land.

Database of recommendations: monitoring the status of implementation

68. The Forum secretariat is undertaking a review and analysis of the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Forum at its fourth session and

will be updating its database of recommendations, which will be posted on the website. The challenges associated with monitoring the status of implementation of Forum recommendations can be broadly categorized according to the following considerations:

(a) It is difficult to know the status of implementation of general and broad recommendations that are not specifically addressed to any one entity;

(b) It is difficult to monitor the status of implementation in respect of recommendations that are about process and not necessarily about a specific tangible output, since Governments, intergovernmental organizations or the United Nations system may also leave their response open-ended or may not address these recommendations. The fact that a large proportion of reports received simply report on activities and not on actual progress makes it difficult to assess progress;

(c) It is difficult to monitor the impact at the local and national levels of recommendations that are addressed and implemented at the global level, since this is entirely dependent on which States or United Nations country teams decide to report to the Forum on national activities;

(d) It is difficult to monitor the status of implementation of recommendations that have multiple parts, since not every reporting Government, intergovernmental organization or United Nations system organization will report on each part of a recommendation;

(e) From a monitoring and management perspective, it is difficult to prepare a precise status report on the types of recommendations mentioned in (a) to (d) above.

69. **Since monitoring the implementation of recommendations is perceived as a vital function, it would be beneficial if the Forum made fewer recommendations, made recommendations that were clearer about expected outcomes, with possible targets, and avoided recommendations with multiple parts. Another beneficial approach for furthering implementation and making monitoring easier would be to have an enhanced dissemination strategy for the recommendations at country level, in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Support Group.**

Meeting on migration and indigenous peoples convened by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

70. Pursuant to a recommendation of the Forum made in 2004, a Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration is being organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Forum secretariat in April 2006 in Geneva. The outcome of this welcome development will be announced at the fifth session of the Forum and will feed into the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development to be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006.

Concept paper on a "Report on the state of the world's indigenous people"

71. Following Forum recommendations, the Forum secretariat prepared a concept note on a possible global report on indigenous peoples. This concept note was presented to the Forum for its consideration at its meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, in January 2006.

Preparation of the Handbook for members of the Forum and the Resource Guide for participants at the Forum's sessions

72. In order to facilitate orientation and provide a resource tool for members of the Forum, the Forum secretariat prepared a Handbook that outlines how the Forum works, as well as provides practical information relating to the Forum's sessions. A Resource Guide was also prepared for prospective indigenous and civil society participants who would be attending the annual sessions of the Forum. This Resource Guide will be available in French, English, Russian and Spanish and will be posted on the website and disseminated widely.

Capacity-building

73. The Forum secretariat has been promoting capacity-building to the extent allowed by its resources. The production of the material outlined above, the production of the film *Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations*, the collection of case studies, the preparation of a toolkit on indigenous issues and regular cooperation with non-governmental organizations for training activities are some of its efforts in this area. Although resources have not yet permitted the launch of its indigenous fellowship programme, the Forum secretariat was pleased to host, in January 2006, a programme for a group of Russian indigenous fellows, in cooperation with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North. In May 2006, the Forum secretariat will cooperate with Deusto University in Spain in organizing a two-week training programme for a group of indigenous fellows including participation in the fifth session of the Forum.

III. Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

74. Following the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in its resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004, the Assembly adopted the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in its resolution 60/142 of 16 December 2005. It is recalled that the goal of the Decade is the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solutions of problems faced by indigenous peoples in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development. This goal is expected to be achieved by means of action-oriented programmes, specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities. As described in the Programme of Action (A/60/270, sect. II.A), the main objectives of the Decade are:

(a) Promoting non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects;

(b) Promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions that directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent;

(c) Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples;

(d) Adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, and particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth;

(e) Developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, the regional and particularly the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives.

75. The theme for the Second Decade, as adopted by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of its resolution 60/142, is "Partnership for action and dignity".

76. The Coordinator of the Second Decade and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs has invited Governments, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations and bodies, and indigenous and other non-governmental organizations to provide information regarding specific plans of action they may intend to adopt in connection with the Second Decade. The Coordinator has also placed the subject of the Second Decade in the agenda of the United Nations Development Group for discussion and action. In addition, all Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have been invited to contribute to a specific Department of Economic and Social Affairs plan of action for the Second Decade and also to identify benchmarks of achievement by 2015.

77. The above-mentioned poster for the Decade (see para. 41) will be ready by the fifth session of the Forum. Following a recommendation of the Forum in 2005, a special launch of the Programme of Action will take place in the General Assembly Hall at the opening of the fifth session of the Forum.

IV. Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues

78. In its resolution 57/191 of 18 December 2002 on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund in support of the Forum. In resolution 59/174, the Assembly, in proclaiming the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, also decided that a fund should be established to support projects and programmes during the Second Decade. In this regard, the former Trust Fund in support of the Forum has been renamed the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues and its terms of reference have been expanded to enable acceptance of contributions for this purpose.

79. In 2005, the Trust Fund received contributions from Finland, Mexico and Norway, as well as earmarked support from IFAD, thus bringing the total amount of contributions received in 2005 to $277,024. In addition, to date, the Trust Fund has also received contributions earmarked for projects related to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People totalling $160,822 from Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia and Germany. The Secretariat is exploring the possibility of transferring any remaining funds from the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to supplement funds for the Second Decade.

80. As part of the activities during the Second Decade, the Forum secretariat finalized funding guidelines for submitting project proposals. The Forum secretariat received more than 200 project proposals and set up a review mechanism in 2006 to assist the Bureau of the Forum, which will serve as the Advisory Group for reviewing project proposals. The Bureau will meet for two days, on 11 and 12 May 2006, to review proposals.

81. During 2005, Trust Fund financing encompassed: (a) partial expenses for the International Workshop on Methodologies Regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples (New York, 17-19 January 2005); (b) travel of Forum members to meetings of relevance to the Forum's mandate: out of a total of 25 such meetings, the Fund funded 15; (c) earmarked support by IFAD for the preparation of case studies of IFAD-financed projects in indigenous communities and a framework for advocacy on development and indigenous peoples; (d) support for a data disaggregation project in Nepal from an earmarked contribution of UNDP; (e) production of an awareness-raising film on indigenous peoples and the United Nations in French, English and Spanish and reproduction of copies of the film for distribution to United Nations country teams and Governments; and (f) an ongoing project with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs for the preparation of a Russian version of a publication on the Forum.

82. Additional earmarked support from UNDP, received in 2005, will be utilized for the project "Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples", the main objectives of which are: to campaign for the Millennium Development Goals among indigenous communities at national level; to use the Millennium Development Goals as an advocacy and training tool for indigenous communities; and to enhance participation of indigenous peoples in Millennium Development Goal processes. IFAD is expected to provide another grant in 2006 for the organization of three regional meetings aimed at supporting the identification, based on the perceptions of indigenous people, of indicators of poverty and well-being.

83. In January and March 2006, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People addressed letters to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and private institutions calling for contributions to the Trust Fund.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Ongoing priorities and themes

Analysis and state of implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first to third sessions

Note by the Secretariat*

Summary

The present note provides an analysis of the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first to third sessions. It identifies facilitating factors as well as obstacles to implementation. The note aims to help the Forum to more effectively: (a) provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Economic and Social Council and to the programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations through the Council; (b) raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system; and (c) prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues. The note suggests how to rationalize recommendations and ensure better implementation given the operational context of the various United Nations bodies and the Council.

* The present document was submitted late in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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I. Introduction

1. At its first to third sessions, the Forum made 294 recommendations in all. The first group of recommendations, "Draft decisions recommended by the Forum for adoption by the Council" includes 17 recommendations (first session: 5; second session: 7; third session: 5). The second group, "Matters brought to the attention of the Council", includes 277 recommendations (first session: 32; second session: 131; third session: 114) and many of these have sub-items. The first group consists of recommendations which must be discussed and decided by the Council because they have programme budget implications. The second group are sent to the Council for its attention and for it to take note of them. Individual member States can take action on these recommendations by implementing them at the national level or influencing related decisions in the governing bodies of United Nations agencies, funds or bodies of which they are members.

2. A third group of recommendations arose from the international expert workshops held on specific and especially demanding issues following decisions of the Forum. For the period under review, this includes the workshop on data collection and disaggregation and the workshop on free, prior and informed consent. It is important to see how the recommendations from those workshops can be implemented. These are presented in reports to the Forum. While discussions of the Forum on these recommendations are brief, it may choose to adopt some of them formally.

II. Review of developments

3. The present report builds on the reports and assessment of the secretariat of the Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues concerning how and which of the recommendations have been implemented. It clusters the recommendations of the Forum according to their characteristics and notes what has been implemented and what were the factors which influenced the implementation or non-implementation. It concludes by making recommendations on how to proceed to ensure more widespread and effective implementation.

4. The secretariat of the Forum has reported on the outcomes achieved in relation to the recommendations of its first session (see E/C.19/2003/3) and provided a database on the recommendations (see www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii). For the second session of the Forum, the secretariat prepared an overview of developments on mandated areas and ongoing priorities and themes (see E/C.19/2004/10) and for the third session another such review was issued (see E/C.19/2005/8). Those reports cover:

(a) The contributions of the United Nations system, including contributions by individual agencies and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues;

(b) Activities of the members of the Forum;

(c) Activities of the secretariat in support of the mandate of the Forum, including follow-up to the recommendations.

5. The members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues have also provided their own views on how to strengthen the work of the Forum within

the United Nations system, including suggestions on how to increase possibilities of implementing the recommendations.

6. The written submissions to the Forum of the various United Nations bodies, agencies and funds and Governments describe their policies, programmes and projects related to indigenous peoples issues and how they have implemented recommendations from the Forum that are addressed to them specifically or those which are related to what they are doing. The table shows how the submissions of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies have increased over the past three or four years. This is a good indication of increasing qualitative and quantitative engagement of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies with the Forum. The low number of submissions from Governments and indigenous NGOs is compensated by their active participation in the sessions.

	Number of submissions		
Entities	First session	Second session	Third session
United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies	9	13	15
Governments	3	6	3
NGOs, including indigenous peoples organizations	2	5	2
Total	**14**	**24**	**20**

III. Analysis of recommendations

7. Recommendations are adopted by the Forum under mandated areas of the Forum, the methods of work and around the special themes and cross-cutting issues. Notwithstanding the headings used, we observed that recommendations can be clustered as described in paragraphs 8 to 13 below.

A. Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination

8. These recommendations relate to the generation of information and knowledge on situations and issues of indigenous peoples and studies, policies and programmes of intergovernmental bodies and Governments. They cover such activities as workshops and seminars, research projects and analytical work, preparing reports (e.g., report on implementation of Agenda 21), data collection and disaggregation, establishing websites and databases, publications and the use of multimedia to project indigenous issues. Examples of these are recommendations for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to undertake a study on genocidal and ethnocidal practices perpetrated on indigenous peoples (No. 81, second session); for the World Health Organization to do a study on prevalence and causes of suicide among indigenous youth (No. 82, second session); for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to undertake a study on use of indigenous knowledge relating to medicinal plants and resources, the use of such knowledge and its benefits for indigenous peoples (No. 59, second session).

B. Increased and effective participation of indigenous peoples in various global, regional and national processes and mechanisms

9. These recommendations refer to enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples in processes and mechanisms of the United Nations, including United Nations conventions or those of other intergovernmental bodies. Activities include inviting members of the Forum to participate in such processes, the creation of an ad hoc intersessional working group of indigenous peoples by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the establishment of voluntary funds to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes (WIPO, etc.) and inviting indigenous persons to be members of advisory bodies. The preoccupation with the need to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples before development projects are brought in or undertaken in indigenous territories is one way of enhancing such participation.

C. Capacity-building and awareness-raising for indigenous peoples, personnel and governing bodies of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and also of government officials and politicians

10. These recommendations urge Governments and the United Nations system to allocate resources to build capacities and raise the awareness of indigenous peoples of their rights and the existence and use of mechanisms to protect their rights, as well as their capacities to effectively participate in government and intergovernmental bodies, processes and mechanisms. The objective of capacity-building is to ensure that government and intergovernmental personnel and senior management, as well as governing bodies, have a better understanding of the issues, concerns and rights of indigenous peoples and establish focal points or units on indigenous issues. Special attention to indigenous women, children and youth is always part of such recommendations. Activities suggested include training seminars and workshops; fellowships; visits of Forum members and other indigenous leaders to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and their participation in key activities; and appointing focal points or setting up units dedicated to indigenous issues.

D. Development, popularization and dissemination of education and awareness-raising materials, toolkits and guidelines

11. Several recommendations request United Nations bodies to develop, in partnership with indigenous peoples, education and training materials or kits on various topics, including human rights instruments. These include translating existing materials into local languages, using guidelines or tools which integrate indigenous peoples concerns (Akwe Kon guidelines, participatory poverty assessment, etc.), using translated and contextualized education materials to further develop and strengthen bilingual and intercultural education.

E. Shifts in paradigms and approaches to development and in the formulation of conceptual frameworks, policies and guidelines, and setting up projects to reflect those shifts

12. Some recommendations revolve around the need to articulate and integrate indigenous peoples world views, perspectives and practice, especially on development-related issues. Many of these are consistent with the human rights-based approach to development and the demand-driven approach. Challenging the dominant development paradigm and developing and implementing alternatives is no mean feat. Proposed activities include the development of more holistic strategies, programmes and projects; establishing indigenous people-sensitive indicators; holding dialogues or workshops/seminars on how to implement the development of indigenous peoples with respect for their identity and culture; data disaggregation; ensuring the effective participation of indigenous peoples in various processes and activities of states and intergovernmental bodies; operationalization of the human rights-based approach to development; analysis and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals from the viewpoint of indigenous peoples; and setting up and replicating model projects and good practices.

13. The recommendations which emerged from the two expert workshop/seminars identified specific activities which the United Nations system, Governments and indigenous peoples can undertake. Many of these still revolve around the generation of data and knowledge about indigenous peoples and ensuring their effective participation in decisions and processes which affect them. These also include development of toolkits and guides. For instance, the workshop on free, prior and informed consent recommended that a handbook on indigenous issues, including methodologies and elements of a common understanding on free, prior and informed consent, be developed by the United Nations system. The workshop on data collection and disaggregation proposed that intergovernmental bodies, funds and programmes launch a coordinated data-collection exercise in one or more countries.

F. Description and status of implementation of the recommendations

14. Almost all the recommendations which fall in the first group (see para. 1 above) are implemented. The main reason for this is that they are funded through the regular budget. They include the establishment of the secretariat of the Forum and the holding of two international expert workshops. Two recommendations not implemented from this group are the recommendations at the first session that a five-day intersessional meeting of Forum members be convened and that summary records be provided for the public meetings of the Forum. The lack of resources is the major reason why these recommendations have not been implemented.

15. Some recommendations that were reported as implemented were finished, planned or ongoing activities of intergovernmental organizations and Governments even before the Forum was established. For example, the workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had been planned and funded from the regular budget or the voluntary fund for the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Similarly, the activities of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people were mandated previously. While such activities cannot be

credited to the recommendations of the Forum, it is still important that they be reported because of the need to inform the Forum of programmes and activities of the whole United Nations system so as to improve complementarity and also for awareness-raising purposes.

16. In terms of generating data and information, many new initiatives have been undertaken in response to the above-mentioned clusters of recommendations of the Forum. For instance, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) conducted a research project on indigenous peoples and the right to adequate housing. Poverty studies of indigenous peoples were done in five Latin American countries by the World Bank. The International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted an ethnic review in 14 countries. The written submissions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds to the sessions of the Forum are additional sources of information on what these bodies are doing to address indigenous peoples' issues. There are still several recommendations for studies which have not been conducted by the concerned United Nations body. This is understandable since it is not realistic to expect that when a recommendation for a study is made a United Nations body can just undertake this without going through internal decision-making processes. If there are budget implications, the governing councils or executive arms of the bodies concerned must first agree that the recommended study be done.

17. Many recommendations, especially those that require short and medium-term time frames, have been implemented. Examples are the adoption of the theme "indigenous children" by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its day of discussion; the numerous and increasing invitations extended to Forum members to visit various United Nations bodies and the financial support given by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the two regional indigenous women's conferences. The database of the secretariat and its reports, as well as *Meetings Stock*, the quarterly newsletter, are excellent sources for more detailed information on what recommendations have or have not been implemented.

18. Some activities, however, have not been fully reported. The source of information for reports and the database are mainly written submissions. The oral presentations from the floor made during the plenary meetings of the Forum have not yet been included. For instance, only three to nine Governments made written submissions. Those that made written submissions at all three sessions of the Forum are Canada, Finland and the Russian Federation; Norway, New Zealand, Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador and Venezuela made occasional submissions. Considering that almost all the States members of the Economic and Social Council are present in the plenary meetings of the Forum and some of them made statements, it may be necessary to review daily press releases issued by the Department of Public Information on Forum debates to take full note of what others have reported.

19. Some of the recommendations on enhancing indigenous peoples' participation in intergovernmental and governmental processes are being implemented. Numerous invitations have been received by members of the Forum from United Nations bodies, including an invitation to be observers at the General Assembly of the IFAD Governing Council, and indigenous persons have been included in the advisory bodies of a number of entities. Additional voluntary funds have been established by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Convention on Biological

Diversity to facilitate the participation of indigenous persons in various intergovernmental processes.

36. In relation to capacity-building processes, some agencies have conducted training sessions for their staff and other interested parties.

IV. Facilitating factors

37. Some factors which have facilitated implementation are:

(a) Some United Nations bodies are already implementing programmes specifically targeted for indigenous peoples and some have written policies on indigenous peoples. The recommendations of the Forum have provided further justification for continuing, expanding or enhancing such activities.

(b) The Forum's clear mandate to provide expert advice and facilitate coordination and integration has given more weight to the recommendations emerging from its sessions. Some of these recommendations have already been raised in several processes such as the Working Group on Indigenous Populations or its article 8 (j) of the working group of the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, these do not have mandates similar to that of the Forum. Since it is expected that United Nations bodies will attend subsequent sessions of the Forum, it is a good practice for them to report, including some analysis, on which recommendations have been implemented and which have not.

(c) The role played by the secretariat of the Forum in providing United Nations bodies with the final reports and recommendations that are specifically addressed to each body, including follow-up and support, especially in the case of joint activities, has contributed to the implementation of several recommendations.

(d) Active engagement and commitment of the focal point in each United Nations body to pursue the implementation of the recommendations assigned to his or her agency and partnerships created between the Forum and others are key factors for facilitating the implementation of programmes and projects.

(e) If additional resources are needed for implementation, some United Nations bodies allot some money to ensure the implementation of recommendations considered important. The combination of the determination of focal points to ensure that recommendations will be implemented and the active engagement of Forum members in providing advice and support have contributed to successful implementation.

(f) The moral and financial support coming from members of the Inter-Agency Support Group, especially if two or more members collaborate to implement a recommendation, is another facilitating factor.

(g) Issues of indigenous peoples are cutting-edge issues which challenge dominant paradigms and thus are found challenging in terms of developing new discourses and in implementing development and human rights work in non-traditional ways. Some United Nations and Government personnel have successfully addressed these challenges.

(h) A number of indigenous leaders or non-indigenous advocates (whether members of the Forum or not) work closely with some United Nations bodies that have engaged them to provide advice and support on implementing recommendations.

V. Constraints or obstacles

22. Some constraints or obstacles are:

(a) Some recommendations require substantial financial resources that are not within the budget of agencies, programmes and funds and are rarely implemented;

(b) Many of the recommendations, which call for studies to be undertaken, have not been implemented yet. The lack of human and resources within the relevant bodies to carry out such projects are the chief reasons for non-implementation;

(c) Lack of awareness of indigenous peoples and their issues among staff across management officials in governing bodies who make key decisions;

(d) Indigenous peoples' issues remain as a low priority within many United Nations bodies and also within governments;

(e) Lack of capacity in governments on the part of some bodies. Most often the focal points have numerous other competing responsibilities. As a result, recommendations addressed to them frequently remain unimplemented;

(f) Indigenous peoples' issues challenge dominant paradigms and ways of doing things which is a source of great discomfort for some United Nations staff and also for government officials.

VI. Conclusions

23. While a number of recommendations have not yet been implemented, a significant number of important recommendations have been or are in the process of being implemented, including convening of workshops on some of the most critical issues for indigenous peoples (data collection and free, prior and informed consent); convening of meetings with key officials within the United Nations bodies; holding training sessions for United Nations personnel to better understand indigenous issues; inclusion of indigenous issues in various publications prepared by the United Nations system (*Innocenti Digest*, FAO publications, ILO publications etc.); and the ethnic audit and review of poverty reduction strategy papers and Millennium Development Goals reports to assess how they are addressing indigenous peoples, among others.

24. The Forum is able to carry out its mandate by identifying priority recommendations that should be implemented and also special themes for its sessions. The task of choosing which expert workshops will enjoy support from the regular budget is not easy. This is a fine balancing act which has to consider the interests of indigenous peoples, the United Nations programmes, agencies and funds and that of member States. The active participation of many

representatives of United Nations programmes, agencies and funds, government and indigenous peoples representatives in the two workshops is an indication of the interest of all parties to come up with constructive solutions to address these issues.

In the past three years, there has been a noticeable increase in the participation of United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies in the sessions and expert seminars convened by the Forum. The participation of such treaty bodies as the Committee on the Rights of the Child is important because it links the work done by treaty bodies with that of such bodies as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies dealing with children's issues. The participation of the European Council and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean provides more regional perspectives, which the Forum needs to understand better since its influence must reach down to the regional, national and local levels.

The choice of special themes that included indigenous children and youth and indigenous women was crucial. Starting with the most vulnerable sectors among indigenous peoples gave the right signal for all actors, Governments, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples. The recommendations which emerged from the processes undertaken to highlight these special themes resonated with the priorities of these actors. This has contributed to the positive atmosphere which prevails in the sessions of the Forum.

The active involvement of some United Nations bodies in implementing recommendations addressed to them and even bringing the implementation down to the regional, national and local levels is giving a good example to others. For example, the recommendations concerning indigenous children and youth have been pursued not only by UNICEF but also by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the ILO and the secretariat of the Forum. Activities on indigenous children are now being carried out at the country level, the regional level (Latin America) and the global level.

The role played by the Inter-Agency Support Group for Indigenous Issues in terms of pursuing further discussions on how to implement the recommendations and how to strengthen the relationships between the Forum and the Group contributed very positively to the work of the Forum. The substantial contributions from the Group in elaborating and disseminating more widely the issues being discussed helped in pushing further the implementation of recommendations.

The non-implementation of some important recommendations, such as the recommendation for the creation of a working group on free, prior and informed consent, which emerged from all three sessions, remains a concern. And while there are many recommendations for studies to be conducted, there has not been much progress yet to initiate them.

The importance of awareness-raising and capacity-building of indigenous peoples, United Nations staff, senior management and governing bodies, government officials and politicians on indigenous peoples rights and their issues should not be underestimated, although, where activities have been initiated, a more favourable attitude and response to the recommendations may be observed.

31. It has been observed that there is still some resistance to suggestions that three or more United Nations bodies should work together on joint projects in specific areas so that more positive experiences in terms of complementarity and building synergies can be seen. This would ensure that indigenous peoples do not get sacrificed by the turf wars between development agencies.

32. The studies prepared by the World Bank on the poverty situation of indigenous peoples in five Latin American countries, the ethnic audits of the ILO of poverty reduction strategy papers and the reviews done by the Forum secretariat on Millennium Development Goals reports are important contributions. The World Bank studies provided a concrete picture of poverty among indigenous peoples in countries where the indigenous peoples compose a very significant number of the total population. They also show that indigenous peoples are still invisible in most of those countries.

VII. Recommendations

33. The Forum secretariat's efforts prepare overview reports, the *Message Stick* (the quarterly newsletter) and the database on the implementation of recommendations should be sustained. The secretariat should also review oral interventions delivered during Forum sessions and note references made to the implementation of recommendations, which should be added to information provided in written submissions.

34. The Inter-Agency Support Group should continue to play the role of analysing Forum recommendations and making suggestions on how best to have them implemented by the appropriate bodies. This should include proposals on how the recommendations should be packaged and information which indigenous peoples can use to influence decisions within the United Nations system.

35. Considering the large number of recommendations which emerged just from the first three sessions alone, not to speak of what came out of the fourth session, it may be worthwhile to rationalize them. A number of similar recommendations expressed in different ways could be combined. Clustering recommendations under the headings used in the present note would be one approach. Forum members should continue the practice of not repeating recommendations which have already been mentioned at earlier sessions.

36. Good practices in terms of the implementation of recommendations should be written in popular media and disseminated more widely so that they can provide examples for indigenous peoples, the United Nations system, Governments and others.

37. More Governments and indigenous peoples organizations should be encouraged to submit written reports of how they have implemented the recommendations addressed to them, including a description and analysis of facilitating and hindering factors, together with recommendations on how to address obstacles.

38. Indigenous peoples organizations should be encouraged to engage in their own monitoring of the implementation of Forum recommendations to the United Nations system and others at the local and country levels, as well as the

regional level. Reports may be submitted to the Forum by indigenous peoples organizations to inform the Forum's understanding of the level of implementation of its recommendations.

40. More discussions should be held to address the obstacles mentioned in the present note.

41. Developing more effective partnerships between indigenous peoples and other development actors is one way to ensure better implementation of recommendations. The recommendations of the recent workshop on partnership-building, which was held in Nuuk, Greenland, in February 2006, should guide these efforts.

42. In terms of furthering the discourse and practice on holistic self-determined development for indigenous peoples, there should be more dialogues between indigenous peoples and between them and intergovernmental and governmental bodies so as to further refine concepts and reach agreements on how recommendations can be implemented.

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Ongoing priorities and themes

Current practices and methods of work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Note by the Secretariat**

Summary

The present paper is submitted in accordance with the decision contained in paragraph 135 of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fourth session (E/2005/43). It constitutes an initial report on the current practices and methods of work of the Forum and on new challenges and recommendations for improvement.

* E/C.19/2006/1.

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need to include the most recent information.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2000/22, the Economic and Social Council decided, inter alia:

(a) To establish the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as a subsidiary organ of the Council;

(b) That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should serve as an advisory body to the Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights, in so doing, the Permanent Forum should:

(i) Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council;

(ii) Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the United Nations system;

(iii) Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues;

(c) That the principle of consensus should govern the work of the Forum;

(d) That the Forum should apply the rules of procedures established for subsidiary organs of the Council, as applicable.

2. With due regard to the specificity of its mandate, the Forum has developed its methods of work within the framework of rules established for subsidiary organs of the Council.

3. At its fourth session, the Forum decided to appoint Yuri Boychenko and Parshuram Tamang, members of the Forum, as Special Rapporteurs, to prepare, without financial implications, a working paper on current practices and methods of work to be submitted at the fifth session of the Forum (E/2005/43, para. 135).

4. The present report is based on the current practices and decisions of the Forum, the study of methods of work undertaken by other functional commissions of the Council and the advice and comments received from the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and members of the Forum.

II. Overview of current practices and methods of work of the Permanent Forum

Decisions and recommendations of the Forum

5. In accordance with its mandate, the Forum annually adopts recommendations addressed to the United Nations system and other entities. A small number of these have been transmitted to the Council in the form of draft decisions to be adopted by the Council. The Forum has elected to submit to the Council decisions that have financial implications for the regular United Nations budget or special procedural ramifications. The bulk of the recommendations are drawn to the attention of the Council, which forwards them to United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

Participation of members of the Forum in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council

6. The Forum, which is represented by its chairperson or designated members at various meetings of relevance to its mandate throughout the year, has also requested all subsidiary bodies of the Council to invite the Forum and its members to all relevant meetings, conferences and seminars (E/2003/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III).

Bureau of the Permanent Forum

7. The Forum considered it useful to designate six members for its Bureau at its first and second sessions and confirmed that emerging practice as a method of work of the Forum (E/2003/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision IV).

Interaction with functional commissions

8. The Forum has been represented at the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Those bodies have in turn been represented at the Forum by their chairpersons or special rapporteurs. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women has addressed the Forum. In 2005, the Forum designated a member as special rapporteur to pursue further strengthening of cooperation with the Forum on Forests.

Visits of Forum members to various agencies

9. The visits by Forum members to agencies have permitted the Forum to strengthen its links with the agencies and familiarize itself with their work and challenges. Such visits have been made to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization and the bureau of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Capacity-building in national and local governments and in indigenous communities

10. The Forum noted the need for capacity-building in national and local government as well as indigenous communities and recommended that various parts of the United Nations system, including ILO and the secretariat of the Forum, cooperate to provide technical assistance in that regard at the request of Governments and indigenous communities (E/2003/43, para. 116).

Mainstreaming of indigenous issues within the United Nations system

11. The Forum, in fulfilment of its mandate to mainstream indigenous issues within the United Nations system, has recommended that the executive heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that have not yet done so adopt policies on indigenous peoples and designate focal points to address indigenous issues relevant to their respective mandates (E/2004/43, para. 121). The Inter-Agency Support Group has worked with the United Nations Development Group, successfully proposing changes to the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidelines in 2004 in order to reflect

indigenous issues in development programming. The Support Group may continue such cooperation, especially since indigenous issues were included in the Development Group's 2004 priorities.

Strengthening mechanisms for collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system and Governments

12. The Forum recommended the strengthening of mechanisms for collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system and Governments and the monitoring of compliance with and implementation of its recommendations to them. The Forum has recognized the important role of the Inter-Agency Support Group and the participation of agency focal points in constructive dialogue and implementation of its recommendations. The Forum also has a flexible relationship with the agencies and has adopted, in consultations with agency focal points, recommendations to promote indigenous issues within each agency (E/2003/43, paras. 117 and 120).

Recommendations of the Forum with financial implications

13. Certain Forum recommendations to the United Nations system may have financial or other resource implications for individual agencies. The resources required for the implementation of some recommendations may need to be approved by governing bodies of the agencies; for that reason, the Forum promoted direct communications at its third session by requesting: (a) that each United Nations agency and organization make the Forum's recommendations formally available to its governing body, assembly or other relevant high-level committee or organ, drawing particular attention to the recommendations specifically addressed to the organization or body concerned; and (b) that member States take into account the recommendations of the Forum in developing policies on the governing bodies of organizations to which they are members (E/2004/43, para. 96).

Database of recommendations

14. The database of recommendations showing the status of their implementation is seen by the Forum as a useful working tool. In its report on the third session (E/2004/43, para. 104), the Forum noted with satisfaction the enhanced contributions of the United Nations system in its work and recommended that the United Nations system, Governments, indigenous and other organizations further assist in the implementation and monitoring of the Forum's recommendations and report to the Forum at its annual sessions. The Forum noted with appreciation the database of recommendations and their implementation status, as well as indicative time frames prepared by its secretariat, and recommended that the secretariat further develop the database as a useful tool.

15. The database could become a working tool for agencies and, if placed in a closed-access circuit, could also prove a good way of continuing communication among agencies regarding their work on indigenous issues, thus improving their cooperation and coordination. It could eventually provide an innovative template to assist agencies in reporting concisely on the implementation of recommendations to the annual sessions of the Forum.

16. **The Forum has also decided to create a database of those recommendations proposed by Forum members and observers during its sessions and not reflected in their reports, for further consideration.**

Cooperation with the Economic and Social Council

17. The Bureau of the Forum meets annually with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council. The chairperson of the Forum participates at the annual meetings of the Council with the chairpersons of functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, after which, as appropriate, the Forum forwards its views to the high-level segment of the Council.

Participation of States, the United Nations system, indigenous peoples' and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and others

18. More than 30 intergovernmental institutions participate in the annual sessions of the Forum, including regional organizations and international financial institutions. Some 1,000 civil society representatives (the majority of them indigenous individuals) participate in the annual sessions, at which some 70 States are represented.

Organization of work

19. The Forum has organized its work as follows:

- Annual sessions of two weeks
- Pre-sessional meetings (formal ones, not on an annual basis, as well as informal pre-sessional meetings)
- Annual expert group meetings at the request of the Forum
- About 60 side events are organized during the annual sessions by Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions
- Designation of annual special themes
- Annual agenda, including follow-up on previous special themes
- High-level panels on the annual special theme
- Dialogue with agencies on the annual special theme
- Regional focus through side events (in 2005) and during session meetings (half a day of special focus on Africa during 2006 session)

Portfolio system

20. The Forum has developed a portfolio system with one or more Forum members focusing on specific subjects, thus developing links with corresponding United Nations mechanisms and agencies. To develop a deeper contextualized understanding of their issues of focus, portfolio holders visit agencies, participate in international meetings, act as facilitators in the preparation of draft recommendations for their theme, introduce items during Forum sessions and hold discussions with indigenous caucuses.

Meetings with the Friends of the Forum group, member States and the Inter-Agency Support Group

21. Forum members and agencies had special closed meetings during the sessions or for one-on-one consultations. However, time constraints on members during the annual sessions limit such possibilities, especially since the Forum, outside its regular open meetings, has to share the short time available for private meetings with representatives of United Nations agencies, States and indigenous organizations. The Forum usually holds two meetings with the Inter-Agency Support Group during its sessions. Forum members meet with the Friends of the Forum at the beginning of the annual session and hold an open meeting with governmental delegates during the second half of the session.

Multi-year work programme

22. The Forum has been formulating its work programme on an annual or biannual basis. It has a work programme through 2006.

Reporting and documentation

23. The recommendations of the Forum have become increasingly action-oriented, especially as they benefit from input by the agencies. In turn, the agencies have significantly improved the quality of their reporting. The number and volume of documentation submitted annually has also increased and the engagement of intergovernmental organizations, also from outside the United Nations system, is a positive trend.

III. New challenges for the Forum and recommendations for improvement

24. One of the main challenges for Forum members is the establishment of methods and organization of work to ensure that the Forum can realize its full political potential in addressing the concerns of indigenous peoples.

Generating systematic recommendations

25. Recommendations should be generated and systematized both during the sessions as well as intersessionally.

A. Recommendations made during the annual sessions of the Forum

26. The generation and systematization of recommendations, which reflect the productivity of Forum sessions are hindered by repetitive and extended statements. To remedy the situation, the list of speakers for each mandated area may be organized as follows:

- Opening of agenda item by the Chair
- Presentation by the United Nations system
- Short questions or statements by the members (portfolio holders)

- Seven regional representatives from indigenous people's organizations
- Indigenous women's caucus
- Indigenous youth caucus
- Indigenous delegates
- Thematic caucus
- States.

27. The time allotted for each intervention should be determined by the time stipulated in the agenda for each mandated area.

28. In order to implement this method of work, it may be best to hold regional preparatory meetings (and national meetings, if possible) and thematic indigenous caucuses. To that end, thematic caucuses and the regional groups could meet to reach consensus on the recommendations for their joint interventions, compile documentation and designate regional representatives for each mandated area. Such a procedure would promote the interrelated operability of both the caucuses and the Forum, establish channels for organized collective participation and generate concrete, succinct and representative joint recommendations.

29. Once the above method and organization of work is established, the intersessional role of members could include chairing the regional preparatory meetings convened for drafting regional reports and recommendations on the mandated areas and themes of sessions, which would then be presented during the annual sessions of the Forum. The procedure could be an effective way of coordinating the work of the Forum with that of indigenous peoples' organizations.

B. Compilation of recommendations generated during the intersessional period

30. Assistance in generating and systematizing action-oriented recommendations is not limited, however, to the annual sessions of the Forum. On the contrary, most potential recommendations are generated outside the Forum in the daily work of indigenous peoples' organizations and at international meetings.

31. The Forum does not yet have a comprehensive compilation of the recommendations and demands of indigenous peoples' organizations for specific United Nations conferences, world summits, conventions, organizations, forums, specialized agencies, programmes or funds. The organization of such a compilation would be greatly advanced if the Forum were to make a recommendation in this regard to the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the indigenous peoples who participate in the United Nations system do not necessarily attend Forum sessions, and no communications mechanism has been established between the indigenous peoples' caucuses and the Secretariat to ensure that the recommendations generated in other contexts of the United Nations system are addressed by the Forum.

C. Recommendation for States, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples' organizations

32. The Forum should generate recommendations for the entire United Nations system, not just in those areas where indigenous peoples have historically participated, lobbied or acted as observers. This recommendation is consistent with the Forum's mandate to promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system.

D. Identification of neglected or emerging issues and relevant recommendations

33. Another aspect of generating and systematizing recommendations is the identification of crucial issues for indigenous peoples that are not addressed by a formal convention or area of the United Nations system and that should not be omitted from the recommendations of the Forum. Examples of such issues include cultural rights and the rights of transboundary indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation ("uncontacted peoples"). The Secretariat should make a special effort to identify emerging or neglected issues and propose a mechanism or methodology for relevant recommendations to be developed and submitted for consideration by the Forum.

Empowerment of agency focal points

34. The Forum should prepare guidelines for the annual reports by United Nations agencies and establish monitoring indicators on the implementation of recommendations. The Forum should ensure that the activities of agency focal points are included in the regular programmes and budgets of agencies so that coordination with the Forum is effective and the objectives of the latter's mandates can be achieved.

Action by United Nations entities upon the recommendations of the Forum

35. United Nations entities have been considering the Forum's recommendations in their working sessions under a separate agenda and have responded to the secretariat of the Forum accordingly, as seen in the case of the working group on article 8 (j), the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the subsidiary body of implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is an example of good practice.

Multi-year programme of work

36. As a methodological point, the Forum intends to adopt a thematic approach to build up a three-year programme of work and to focus on implementation. The Forum has urged United Nations bodies, States and indigenous peoples to engage actively in dialogue on those issues, sharing good practices and barriers to implementation (E.2004.43, para. 112). Although the secretariat of the Forum has developed a database, steps to establish a monitoring and evaluation process have yet to be taken.

Monitoring and advocating implementation

37. The Forum must not become an annual exercise in producing recommendations, that is, a yearly listing of the entire political agenda of indigenous peoples. To avoid repeating the same exercise year after year, the Forum members should have a clear global understanding of the status of implementation of previous recommendations and the methods of work needed to evolve in that direction.

38. For that purpose, a database for monitoring implementation and tracking status of recommendations is being built by the secretariat based on a systematic presentation of reports from and dialogue with representatives of member States and the United Nations system at the Forum's annual sessions. Thanks to the database, members can formulate recommendations that guarantee a constructive progression of the Forum's work. At future sessions, the Forum will be able to focus on evaluating the implementation of existing recommendations and proposing follow-up complementary recommendations.

39. It is necessary to establish a method of work whereby the Forum has a structured, dynamic dialogue to evaluate implementation, identify next steps and articulate relevant recommendations.

Engaging States in the work of the Forum

40. The mandate of the Forum is broad enough to cover invitations to States to comment on indigenous issues. Successful methods of work also require achieving fuller involvement of States and the United Nations system both during the session and intersessionally. To that end, the Forum could establish a structured, dynamic dialogue with greater involvement of the United Nations system and States, which would allow both agencies and States to report on the implementation of recommendations, present reports, field criticism of policies and interface with members and observers. A frank exchange would help the members of the Forum to identify the next step to propose. Such dialogue would provide a less formal setting than a high-level panel.

Overcoming the contradictions within the United Nations system

41. Given the mandate of the Forum for the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system, the Forum can establish a permanent project to monitor inconsistencies and lack of compliance within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of existing provisions on the rights of indigenous peoples.

42. A permanent monitoring project on the respect and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights within the United Nations system could be the foundation for addressing existing and emerging contradictions and establishing policy to enforce cross-cutting compliance throughout the system.

Institutional integration of the Forum

43. Generating, promoting and disseminating the recommendations of the Forum throughout the organizations of the United Nations system go hand in hand with defending the political space of the Forum against lack of awareness of or hostility towards its existence. The secretariat should promote awareness of the Forum so

that it is taken into due consideration by the organizations of the system as a whole. Specifically, it should promote the issuance of appropriate, formal invitations to the chairperson and members, and ensure that the Forum's presence is recognized in the plenary and other meetings by an official nameplate and desk, as well as by inclusion in the agenda and explicit invitation to formal functions. Establishing institutional inclusion throughout the United Nations is an integral part of the strategy to advance the Forum's recommendations.

44. The agency focal point network at FAO could be a good practice at other agencies and within national Governments.

Organization of the Bureau

45. The Forum elects its Bureau at the beginning of each session. The Bureau members, including the chairperson, may be elected by rotation, according to regions, thus avoiding potentially divisive election by vote while ensuring equal opportunity of representation for all regions. Regional members should have the right to present candidates for the Bureau; members will therefore be responsible for their regions (even though they are independent experts).

Creation of special rapporteurs and working groups and the organization of technical workshops

46. The Forum has organized technical workshops on thematic issues to produce its expert recommendations. At its fourth session, the Forum decided to appoint some members as special rapporteurs to speed up its work by elaborating issues and proposals. In the same fashion, the Forum may utilize its members' expertise in the most urgent areas, such as indigenous peoples' human rights. Keeping in mind its broad mandate, including its responsibility on human rights, the Forum should give consideration to establishing a working group to bring innovative ideas and ways to complement or supplement the work of human rights bodies and elaborate procedures to fulfil its human rights mandate.

Evaluation of performance, communication and capacity-building

47. It is important to evaluate the workload of the members of the Forum so that they can be effectively engaged in its activities throughout the year.

48. In that regard, the Bureau and the secretariat play an important role in disseminating information on all planned activities to all Forum members and seeking their opinions and inputs. High priority should be given to communication between the secretariat and the members and indigenous peoples.

49. To be successful, this method of work should be complemented by systematic capacity-building at the Forum and in the communities to ensure that delegates understand that the Forum is not simply a body at which to air grievances, but an advisory body whose main purpose is to formulate recommendations on policy. Such an awareness will help bridge the gap between newcomers and veterans of the process and encourage delegates to propose and prepare joint statements. The more succinct the presentation of the recommendations from the floor, the more time will be available for monitoring the activities of the United Nations system and States members with regard to indigenous issues.